

*K. Patriophilus. 1670*

*Novemb. 13. 1720*

# CONSIDERATIONS

ON THE

# A C T

For Encouraging

## IN-LAND NAVIGATION

I N

## I R E L A N D.

W I T H

Some HINTS of a METHOD for  
Enforcing and Executing that A C T.

I N A

# L E T T E R

F R O M A

Country Gentleman to his  
Friend in the HOUSE of COMMONS.

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D U B L I N: Printed in the Year  
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# Considerations, &c.

**I**T was with no small Pleasure, Sir, that we, some Years ago, receiv'd here from your Hands, the Votes of the Parliament then sitting, for establishing a general Water-carriage by an *In-land Navigation* throughout this Kingdom; nor was it with less Joy, that we soon afterwards saw, an Essay of that National Service, attempted in the River *Liffey*.

That Undertaking seem'd, for the first two or three Years, to be in a very hopeful Way; it was deem'd, tho' the most difficult Branch, yet still (and, perhaps in a good measure, on that very Account) the most important of the whole Service, next to that from *Newry* to *Lough-Neagh*, to which all others must give way. The Company who had embark'd in it, were Men of Fortune and Distinction, supposed to want neither Ability nor Resolution to go through with it: In short, all things lookt smilingly on it; all Men spoke kindly and greatly of it; and hop'd still greater things from it, as from an auspicious leading-Card, that was to be the Precedent and Inducement to the like Improvement of our other Rivers throughout the Kingdom.

But, how that Favourite-Service, so hopeful at its first setting out, comes now to lye disparag'd and neglected; and, instead of an Example or Encouragement, to be rather a Bar and a stumbling-Block to any further Progress

in so desirable a Work, is what few Men have been able to comprehend: This, Sir, is a Mystery that wants to be unravel'd; 'tis what has been expected from you, as having been one of the Company, and conversant with their Transactions at home, as well as with the Accidents that beset 'em from without; 'tis what we are told you had promised, and what we humbly conceive you ought to have done; as a Piece of common Justice, not only to your own Reputations, and to that of your Undertaking, but indeed to the whole Kingdom, who have taken Umbrage at it, and may (if not timely undeceiv'd) be in the Consequences, affected and prejudic'd by it.

For, believe it, Sir, the Miscarriage of such a *Service*, in the Hands of such a *Company*, has stagger'd half the Nation: And, not only we, the lower and less discerning Part of Mankind, (who see not far into things that lye deep, and are therefore forc'd to judge of 'em from their Appearances) but even Men of the best Understandings, have been startled and scandaliz'd at it; so far at least, as to have chang'd their Opinions on't much for the worse, and to look now but coldly and indifferently on it, as an Undertaking extremely difficult, if not intolerably expensive: Nay, it may justly be fear'd, that even the Parliament, for want of being disabused and set right in this Matter, may have taken Offence at it; since they, like other Men, (if they have no other Information must judge from common Appearance or common Hearsay.

'Tis not enough, Sir, that you and I (and perhaps some few others) know, but you shou'd, as far as in you lay, have made it known to Mankind; That you happen'd to go into this Undertaking, at that fatal unhappy Juncture, when the *South-Sea* and its confederate Bubbles rag'd epidemically, and had enchanted and bewilder'd you, as well as the other Nations all around you: That the Fall of that Monster, by crushing some of your Company, stagger'd and disconcerted the rest: That there you lost, some your Money, some your Credit, others your Courage, and all your good Humours and good  
Opinions

Opinions of publick Undertakings, and even of one another; That, before Men cou'd recover that Fright, your Company were dissolv'd and dispers'd, into *Great-Britain*, *France*, and even to *Aix-la-Chapel*; where some are since dead, and others never yet return'd.

And, besides that publick Calamity, which had overturn'd the publick Measures of almost all *Europe*, you might have told 'em further, (for, Confession and Repentance, are the first and fairest Steps to Amendment) that you were not Proof against the Infatuation of those Times, but had suckt in a Portion of that Poison, and were so far intoxicated with it, (for you must not deny, that you, like other deluded Men in the World, had, by degrees, set up for thriving by your Wits too) that you had industriously brought a Private S. Sea home to your Doors, and took care to be Ship-wreckt by your own Fire-sides. That you had been wheedled and fool'd, undermined and overset, first by the treacherous Practices of some, who, from the Beginning had study'd to puzzle and embarrass you; whilst others, on the other Hand, as supinely indolent and unactive, lay ever unguarded and expos'd, in proportion as they were innocent and amus'd, undesigning and unsuspecting; then, by restless Ploddings and Schemings on one Hand, ever scheming and dreaming and lotting out *Indies*; and by a credulous Avarice, on the other, ever gasping and pining for imaginary *Millions*, and ever ready to swallow the Delusion, and fondly to believe and hope, what they pin'd and wish'd for. And, lastly, by Tamperings of Intermedlers and Pretenders to Art at home, as well as of Intruders from abroad, who aided by your own Distractions found Means, first to make themselves necessary as Councillors and Assistants, and by Degrees to work themselves into the whole Management of your Affair; whereupon ensued that Diversity of Councils and Opinions, that Confusion and Contradiction of Managements; that Mutiny and Refractoriness of some, and that Defection and Insolvency of others of your Members: And, in fine, that Dislike and Distrust of your Undertaking and your Measures, and indeed,



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indeed, of one another; which soon brought on your Dissolution; A Dissolution that has given so much Scandal and Offence, and is now become the very Reproach and Disparagement of that whole Scheme of Inland Navigation throughout the Kingdom.

You might have told 'em yet further, That this was the first Attempt of a National Publick Work, of great Extent and Consequence, but altogether new and unpractis'd here, wherein your Workmen and Artificers were yet unskill'd and untry'd: That, in the Conduct and Progress of such a Work, many Rubs and Difficulties might have arisen, which cou'd scarce at one View, have been foreseen or provided for by proper Laws: That supplemental and explanatory Laws, have been often found necessary in Cases of far less Depth or Importance, than this before us: And upon the whole, that no Failure or Misfortune, (much less the Mistakes or Misconcertments) of a few private Men in a publick Undertaking, which affects no less than a whole Nation, can be a Reason for the Publick to abandon, but, on the contrary, to espouse and support it: And, that the very Honour and Dignity of Parliament, as well as the Interest of the Nation, seem not a little engag'd in it.

Of this, if you wou'd have Instances, they are abundantly at Hand. All the Canals in *Holland* are made at the Publick Charge: so was the Royal Canal in *France*; and so was even the New River-Water in *England*, when the private Undertaker had fail'd in it: And, if you wou'd have it brought yet nearer home, your own late House of Commons of *Ireland*, in the second of his late glorious Majesty's Reign, pass'd an Act for the two first Readings, in Favour of this very Service, with a Fund of no less than 200 000 *l.* to support it, tho' the Money-part of that Bill (which however was to be rais'd, not altogether, but by easy insensible Levies, in a Succession of about 25 Years) was afterwards thought fit (and, as we stood circumstanc'd, was perhaps, not ill advis'd) to be drop'd, for Reasons needless to be now mention'd.

After

After all, Sir, the Commons of *Ireland*, in Cases of this Kind, are at all times the natural and proper Guardians: And you'll allow me, that this (if any can be so) is an Orphan and an Infant too, worthy the care of such Guardians; and so, has a double claim to their Protection and Support: But still, the Case of this Orphan should have been truly and clearly stated to 'em: How, else, shall they judge or act for it? For, tho' they want not to be urg'd (much less directed) to make their Rivers Navigable, yet they may want to be disabused, and have the Matter laid in its true and proper Light before 'em: Do but this, Sir, tis what you may, and tis all you need to do; Shew it but rational and practicable; shew that the Difficulties really lye, not in the Thing, but in the want of proper Means and Measures for effecting it: And when you have done it this Justice, and rescued it from those Prejudices, which our Silence (perhaps no less than our Misfortunes) had left it exposed to; Leave the rest to the Wisdom of Parliament, who, no doubt, will think of proper Means to revive and prosecute it.

Be not startled, Sir, at the great Sum I mention'd above; no such thing is intended, or can indeed be necessary: Our Case and its Circumstances are alter'd for the better, since the voting of that great Sum; For, you are now in Possession of a Law, by which a perpetual Toll is establish'd on each of these several *Navigations* by Name, and even on every Part or Branch of any one of 'em, as soon as perfected; and this *Duty* alone, (had you but any one of your considerable *Rivers* fairly executed) wou'd, in time, do all the rest; so that it is plain, you now need no more than a competent Stock to set out with.

And, for this, a very small Fund wou'd be sufficient: Four or five thousand Pounds a Year, and but for a very short Term (say, only, four or five Years certain) being appropriated to this Use, vested in proper Trustees, to be by them from Year to Year apply'd to one or other (no matter which, only let the preferable be still preferr'd) of these Services; the *Duties* of every such finish'd *Navigation* (saving only the necessary Repairs and Maintenance



nance of the Works themselves) may be still added to your Fund, and apply'd to the next Work; and so on, till the whole be thus gradually compleated, without Hazard or sensible Burthen to the Publick. And by this Method, or something of this Kind, you'll have this plain and considerable Advantage; that, as your People grow from time to time, better acquainted with the Nature and Uses of these Works, and as your Workmen and Artificers become still more numerous, as well as more experienc'd; so, your very *Fund*, by the Additions it receives as it goes along, will likewise encrease proportionably: So that, in one Year towards the latter End, you'll be able, by those complicated Advantages, to rid more of your Work, than you can do in a good many, now at the Beginning.

And now, Sir, tho' I shou'd think, that offering at Proofs of the Usefulness of *Water-Carriage* in general, were insulting human Reason and Experience, and labouring a Point already settled and agreed on by the whole Trading World: And that it were perhaps as vain to enumerate the manifest Consequences of such a *Service* to the Improvement of the *Trade* and *Wealth*, as well as of the *Land* and *Product* of this Kingdom in particular. And, tho' I don't know, that I ever met with one Objection of Weight, yet I find there are some, that have obtain'd a Currency against it, even with those, whom I shou'd little suspect of entertaining or admitting 'em. I shall, therefore, beg your Patience, whilst I take Notice of thole few, whereon I find the greatest Stress is laid.

#### I. Objection.

'Tis Objected 1<sup>st</sup>. *That Reparation will be insisted on for Damages to injur'd Properties, such as the cutting their Ground where these Services are to be executed.----That these Damages may amount to more than we are aware of, every Man being the proper Judge of the Value of his own Property, which cannot, must not, be invaded without his Consent:*

To this 'tis answer'd 1<sup>st</sup>. in general, That the End and original Design of Roads (whereof, navigable ones are surely the better Sort) is a Communication betwixt Places that have either a Necessity or Convenience of Commerce together;



together; and that they have ever been, and ever must be allow'd, through the best as well as the worst Lands, in this and all other Countries.

That we still want many Roads, which in the Infancy of Trade and Beginnings of our Settlement, either did not appear so necessary, or were perhaps *post-pon'd* on Account of the Expence or other Difficulties attending 'em; to give way to others, that were, either more immediately necessary, or more practicable in these other Respects.

That, however silent or unexerted the Laws might have been in this Particular, there is still the same Justice and Reason, as well as Necessity, (and these are the Foundations on which all Laws and their Makers can have a Right to value themselves) for making Roads now where they are found necessary, as 500 Years ago, or at any time since: And that this ought to be as obligatory and conclusive of me, as of my Great-Grand-Father or any other of my Ancestors.

That my being in Possession of a Road through your Land for some Ages past, may perhaps in Law (and doubtless in Reason too) be an Argument for my insisting on that Possession.---- But, to insist on this as my Right, and in the same Breath, and as it were by virtue of this Right, to set up an Exemption for my self from giving the like publick Convenience through mine, now there's Occasion, were equal Injustice and Ingratitude; and stands justly censur'd and over-rul'd by the indispensable Prescription of all Ages, from which, neither Distance of Time, nor Distinction of Persons, nor any Difference of the real Value of Lands can ever give an Exemption; since neither any one Branch of Trade, nor the least Member of the Commonwealth, not even the common Beggar can subsist without 'em.

That this, however, must not be extended to suggest a publick Right of invading private Properties, further than a publick Necessity and the Laws or Usages of Nations have made it expedient and Warrantable.

That altho' open Fields and common Pasture (of what Value, or whose Property soever) have always been and

ever-more ought to be equally subject to Roads for the publick Convenience--- Yet, where the Case is alter'd by Building, Planting, Inclosure, or other expensive Improvements, private Properties ought not to suffer for the Publick, but by having Reparation made 'em in the ordinary legal Methods in such Cases usual. So much for Answer in general.

Now, as it respects this Service in particular--- 'Tis plain, that if this be a publick Good; and one of an extraordinary Nature too, then it must be more directly and immediately so, to those who have it running through their own Lands, and have the more immediate Benefit and Convenience of the Service.

That the Tracts, through which it is calculated, are mostly Bogs and overflown low Grounds; where, for one Acre to be injur'd, 100 will receive Benefit.--- And that, even to the very best Arces (besides the Benefit of the Navigation) it will be, generally speaking, either a Drain, an Ornament or an Inclosure, or all together.

That, in the whole Service hither to trac'd, the real inevitable Damages throughout the Kingdom cannot amount *bona fide*, to 3000 l. nor ought they to be made a greater Difficulty here, than in other Countries where such Services are frequent, the Value of Lands incomparably higher, and the Damages (if so to be call'd at all) infinitely more considerable.

## II. Objection.

*A second Objection is.--- That our making these navigable Canals will be look'd upon as an Effect of our Pride and excessive Wealth; that our Neighbours and our Allies abroad will have Reason to be jealous of our Sincerity to the common Interest, and censure this as an Extravagance very unseasonable, and inconsistent with the Poverty we plead to publick Emergencies, which doubtless ought to have the first Place in our Consideration.*

This Objection wou'd represent navigable Canals, as Improvements meerly superfluous, and appropriated rather to Pleasure or Ornament, than any material Uses: And there,

therefore tells us, that such Extravagant Projects are only then to be thought on, when we have so much Money to throw away.

But this is running directly Counter to the whole Drift and Design of the Scheme; and perverting both the Means and the very Uses of the Service; so that if this *Objection* were truly stated, we shou'd find the Reasoning to run thus, *viz.*

That we are not able, or must not be allow'd, to lay out 4 or 5000 *l.* a Year, for a short Term, on a Purchase of Ten-fold value, but must be content to lose ten times that Sum, every Year for ever, for want on't. That we can't afford to pay (not even to ourselves) a small Annuity for a few Years, to secure an Inheritance of a Thousand *per Cent.* to ourselves and Posterity; but will chuse to lyè under a perpetual Rack-Rent (for a Concern we can't be without) rather than advance a Year's Purchase, to sit Rent-free in our own Inheritance for ever after: And all this, it seems, for a very unhappy Reason, *viz.* Because we are really poor, and have the Comfort to be reputed so: Or, perhaps, because we'll e'en keep our Poverty, rather than lose the Reputation on't.

This being the Stress and Import of the Objection, the stating and putting it thus in it's true Light, may serve, I think, for any further Answer to it.

### III. Objection.

'Tis another Objection grafted on the former: — *That our making navigable Canals will be construed a kind of Vyeing in Trade with our Neighbours of England, who will never endure the Competition, but will be sure to put a stop to a Progress so injurious to themselves.*

*Here's another Difficulty of our own making:* For, Neither is it true in general (as is here suggested) that whatever is added to the Wealth or Improvement of one Nation, must always and without all Exception, be just so much taken away from another Neighbouring one, even tho' they were in separate Interests, which I hope is not (I'm sure ought not to be) suppos'd in the present Instance.



Nor can this Service in particular, bring the least Detri-  
ment, but, on the contrary, a considerable Advantage, to  
the Trade and People of *England* in their Commerce with  
us.

For, tho' they have thought fit to lay Restrictions on  
some Branches of our Trade, by limiting 'em to certain  
Ports, to be sold but to a certain People, to be by them  
alone wrought and manufactur'd to the best Advantage :  
All this may be but an occasional (they'll, perhaps, tell you  
a needful) Severity.

But, to infer hence, that ever 'twas intended, we  
shan't sell at all, of any Kind, at any Port, to any People,  
not even to themselves : This, surely, were an unlimi-  
ted, unexampl'd Tyranny, far from the Intention, and in-  
consistent with the Honour and Justice, and even with the  
Interest, of that wise Nation.

For, suppose that out of every 1000 *l.* we pay for  
Land-Carriage in the Kingdom, we should be able by the  
Benefit of Water-Carriage to save 900. (than which no-  
thing is more demonstrable.) This, surely, were still  
so far from injuring our Neighbours of *Great Britain*, or  
giving us any Handle to defeat or elude the Limitations  
they have prescrib'd to some Part of our Merchandize,  
that it must, on the Contrary, improve 'em to their consi-  
derable Advantage ; by enabling us, not only to sell 'em  
our own Product so much the cheaper, but to give 'em the  
better Rates for theirs, and both to sell and buy the better  
Kinds and greater Quantities.

And since we are under this perpetual Necessity (com-  
mon to us with all other Nations) of vending our own, and  
importing the foreign Products needful to our Subsistence ;  
and under a consequent Necessity of maintaining a perpe-  
tual Carriage either by Land or by Water : Our Neigh-  
bours surely will as soon attempt, and may as well justify,  
the stopping our High-Roads, as restraining our Navi-  
gable Canals ; being the very same in the Uses, and only  
differing in their Excellency and Names.

And



And to shew, moreover, that this Objection is a mere Creature of our Jealousy, a Phantom of our own raising. I need no more, than to shew you, how far our Ancestors, (and the *People of England* in Conjunction with 'em) have always been of quite other Sentiments in this Matter; nay, in the small Sketches they have left us, of their Zeal to promote *Inland Navigation* in *Ireland*, seem to have out-gone, even our modern Laws and Attempts towards this National Improvement.

By a *Statute* of 28. of *Henry VIII.* the Sheriffs of the respective adjacent Counties to the Rivers *Shure*, *Nore*, *Barrow*, and *Rye*, are required, upon Application of any Person grieved or complaining, forthwith to raise the *Posse*; and to prostrate and remove all *Wears*, and other Bars and Impediments, obstructing the *Naviga-tion* of any of these Rivers, and so, *toties quoties*; with a smart Fine on the Sheriff, and so on every other Defaulter. And the same *Act* gives you seven Foot of Ground (*or more if need be*) on each Side, for the whole Length of each of these Rivers, for Towing or Haling upon, (except where a *Castle* or *Demesn* had been built before the passing of that *Act*) and all this, without being accountable or subject to any Demand of the *Proprietors*; by which you see, that, as our Ancestors were more zealous for these *Navigations*, they were proportionably less squeamish about the *Properties* that might pretend to have been injur'd by 'em, and therefore, did not think fit to embarrass and lay Difficulties on the good Design, by giving *Damages* for Trifles, to the very Persons, who of Course were to be the chief Gainers by the *Service*, as being more immediately contiguous to it: And I have known it, in the short Tryal we have already had in this Case, that the Person who was chiefly and particularly to be benefited, was, perhaps, the very Man that made the greatest Bustle for *Damages*, and stood out hardest to make his utmost Advantage of the *Damage-Clause*.

And,

And, if this *Act* of *Henry VIII.* be not yet enough to indicate the Sentiments of *England*, as having probably taken its Rise in *Ireland*, and upon Application of the People here. You may see another nearer Instance of their Thoughts, in this Respect, which you must allow to have been of their own mere Motion; and wherein the People of *Ireland* could have no Hand or Application; it is an *Instruction* (among many others) from the *King* and *Council* in *England*, to the *Council* of *TRADE* formerly establish'd in this Kingdom; which, as quoted by *Colonel Laurence* in his *INTEREST* of *IRELAND*, runs in these Words, viz. 'You are to enquire by what Ways and Means Commerce may be encreas'd; by employing fit Persons, in the repairing of High-Ways and Bridges; in making Rivers navigable; in draining Loughs and Bogs, and recovering Lands from the Sea.'

#### IV. Objection.

'Tis again Objected, — That we are so cramp'd in our Trade by these foreign Restrictions: That our Markets are so precarious and uncertain, and the Prices of our Commodities sunk so low, that they are not worth our Improvement at so great an Expence, as the making our Rivers navigable.

But, this is just to say, that because a Man has a Twitch of the Gout, he's not worth Curing of a Fever; If he has a Pearl or Film on his Eye, his ready Cure is to put out t'other: Or, if he has but a superficial Maim of a Leg or an Arm, must e'en deny himself the Use of the Limbs he has; and, rather than be seen to limp, e'en lye down and forswear ever going at all.

So, because our Neighbours have laid some Difficulties upon us, we'll either create, or tamely submit to, many more and infinitely worse of our own; And, whenever the Market-Price of our Goods is sunk one half, we'll e'en throw away t'other upon the Carriage.

Now, if a Man could demonstrate from any suppos'd State or Circumstance of our Trade, whether in its most abject or flourishing Condition, that the Time can probably ever come, when we either need not, or must not sell at all;

all; then doubtless I shou'd concur that our Carriage may, at one time or other, become of less Use to us, and consequently the less worth this Cookery.

But if it be Self-evident that we, as well as other neighbouring Nations, must evermore be Selling and Buying. — If neither War nor Peace, nor Scarcity nor Plenty, nor a flourishing nor dejected Trade, nor any other Juncture or Circumstance of it can ever release our Necessity of carrying our own Product to Market, and bringing back that of other Countries whereof we have a Demand--- And if even a decay'd Trade, and the consequent Fall of our Market-Rates, are so far from abating, that they must ever aggravate and enhance our Necessity of Carriage, since we must even then sell most, when we are forc'd to sell cheapest, and to make up the Loss of selling for half Value, must double the Carriage along with the Quantity of our Goods to Market: Then surely it will be own'd, that our Carriage is not so trivial a Part of our Trade, but it may well deserve the Care and Expence of the Nation, if by a tollerable Measure of either we may improve it to our own and Posterity's Advantage.

#### V. Objection.

'Tis lastly Objected, — *That however Useful or Extensive this Service may prove with respect to those Parts of the Kingdom that may be found immediately capable of such Improvement; yet some others being more remote from the Service, will think themselves injur'd in being brought into the Expence, when they have not an equal Prospect of the Benefit.*

This way of Reasoning wou'd insinuate, that a Publick Good is never sufficiently vindicated as such, tho' it be beneficial to a Majority, or even to the Generality of a Nation, unless it likewise extend its Consequences equally to every single Acre and individual Member in it.

But, 'tis a Topick as ill-natur'd as the Point is ill-reason'd; 'tis a Traverse so Destructive of human Commerce, so directly levell'd at the very Fundamentals of Publick Good, and so over-rul'd and condemn'd by the Laws and Customs of all Nations, that giving it a further Answer,

were



were laying a Stress upon't which it does not deserve: For, this Sort of Leveling here insisted on, is so far from being an essential Property of Publick Good, that you may challenge the Universe to produce a single Instance wherein 'tis verifi'd, or to name but one Piece of Publick Good, that is equally participated by every Individual, of but a single Family, let alone Provinces and whole Nations, where the Impossibility is still greater.

On the contrary we know, that Mr. *Newman* at *Stephen's-Green*, who does not cross the *Liffey* once in two Months, contributes to the Building and Repairs of *Essex-Bridge*, equally with Mr. *Roe*, that lives at the Foot on't, and goes ten times a Day over it; And that the Case must have been the same, had he liv'd at the far End of the County, as well as of the Town; And, to conclude, we know, that Reason, Necessity, civil Policy, and the authentick Precedents of all Ages justify the Proceeding.

I confess I should not, for my Part, dispute the Reasonableness of every Man's contributing to a publick Good, in proportion, as well to his Convenience and Benefit of the Service, as his Number of Acres or other Circumstances that are generally the Measure and Standard of such incidents; provided such a Regulation were as practicable as it wou'd seem to carry a Face of Equity.

But, if we know it to be as utterly impracticable, as it has been hitherto unheard of; if neither a Man's hidden Treasure, nor his visible Substance, nor his Quality nor Vocation of Life; if neither the Number nor intrinsic Value of his Acres, nor the Distance nor Vicinity of their Situation, or of his own Abode, can strictly determine his Convenience of any Publick Service: In fine, if these very Levelers that urge it can give us no practicable Scheme, no tollerable Idea of this Regulation they seem to insist on, but wou'd defeat a real Good under colour of a seeming Inconvenience, and complain of an Inequality without ever hinting (or, I fear, intending) a Remedy. We shall be forc'd to conclude with a peremptory Rule upon 'em.

That



That he that will neither exert a good Act of his own, nor agree with it of anothers, that will neither be sweeten'd by good Nature, nor won by good Treatment, nor govern'd by Reason, nor concluded by Precedent, must be either reduc'd by Authority, or excluded Civil Society.

I shall only subjoin as my humble Opinion in our present Case; That an extraordinary Service of this or any other Nature, done but to one Province or County of the Kingdom, must be, in some Measure, a general Advantage to the Whole, and ought to be understood so; and consequently, that tho' we had but one River in the Kingdom capable of this Improvement, it were the Interest, and ought to be the Care of the whole Nation to promote it.

Having got thus clear of these *Objections*, or rather shewn of how little Weight they were from the Beginning; since, had they prevail'd here, they must have held as good against *Inland Navigation* in general, which is so highly, and so justly priz'd by all those other Nations, whose happier *Genius*, or other Advantages, have led 'em earlier to make the Experiment, by which they have already found the *Sweet* on't.

Let us now consider a little, how this Kind of Improvement must affect the Trade and People of *Ireland* in particular, and above most (if not all) other Trading Nations.

'Tis obvious that *Ireland*, tho', perhaps, the best water'd, is yet so to least Purpose, of any civiliz'd and Trading Nation in the known Trading World.

That our native *Product*, tho' generally consisting of useful and substantial Necessaries for Life; yet, if regard be had to its natural comparative *Weight* and *Lumber*, will be found far inferior in its intrinsic *Value*, to that of most other Countries.

That this very *Weight* and *Lumber* (not, at all, the real or intrinsic *Value* of our native Merchandizes) must evermore be the Measure and Standard of our *Carriage*, and ever regulate the Expence on't; and consequently, that, (to instance familiarly) we pay as dear for a ten Mile-Carriage of a Sack of our *Potatoes*, which may

weigh about two Hundred Weight, and may sell in the Market, perhaps, for four or five Shillings, as a *Turk*, an *Indian*, or *Chinese*, pays for the like Carriage of the like Weight, of *Teas*, or *Coffees*, or *Chocolates*; of *Spice*, or *Druggs*, or *Porcelane*; of *Silks*, or *Velvets*, or *Brocades*; nay, of *Silver*, or *Gold*, or *Diamonds*; which, at the same time, may yield him in the Market, from one Hundred, to God knows how many Thousand Pounds Sterling.

That this Carriage of ours (severe and unequal as it thus appears in its Expence) is, however, on all Accounts utterly indispensable; and must, at all Times, and in all Events, be inevitably maintain'd and submitted to; and being thus indispensable, must (till we shall have learn'd to fly) be maintain'd, either by *Land* or by *Water*.

That the Expence of *Land-Carriage*, is to that of *Water*, sometimes as Four or Five, sometimes as Nine or Ten, and (in longer Voyages and greater Burthens) sometimes as Fifteen or Twenty to One: And, upon the whole, that no other Country or People or Trade whatsoever, are under a greater Necessity, or have, at the same time, greater Opportunities, of Easing their Carriage by making their *Rivers Navigable*.

To enforce what has been here proposed, I shall only lay before you, for your better *Recollection* and *Review* of it, the whole Scope and Sum of this National Scheme we are speaking of, as I find it more emphatically abridg'd in a small *Treatise* written some fourteen Years ago, on this Subject.

'Tis intituled, *Heads of a Scheme for making the principal Rivers of Ireland Navigable*; and the Writer of it, having first given a *List and particular Description*, of all the several Rivers; wherein is shewn their *Rise*, *Course*, *Extent* and *Situation*, as well in respect of each other, as of the Kingdom in general: And having likewise hinted the Method for making them all navigable in themselves, and most of 'em communicable together; sums up and closes his Description, with this short Review, viz,

¶ *Note,*

Note (says he) these grand Canals from Dublin, Wexford, Ross, Waterford, Yeoughal, Cork, Limerick, Galway, Sligo and Drogheda, meet and intersect each other; and so, open a Communication by Water, not only from the Mid-land to any of these principal Sea-Ports; but likewise from one Port to another through the Heart of the Kingdom. These from Newry and Colrane meet likewise at Lough-Neagh, crossing that Part of the Country from Sea to Sea: As does another like Canal, for forty Miles, from Cork to Limerick; And a third from Killalla to Galway, forty-four Miles. The other single Canals leads severally, either to their respective Sea-Ports, or into one or other of these grand Canals: Nor is it to be doubted, but several other less considerable Rivers of the Kingdom (at this time, perhaps, not so much as thought on) will, in process of time, like so many By-Roads, fall in of Course, and be join'd to one or other of these grand Canals. Every single Barony and Territory of the Kingdom (especially in the Mid-land Parts on't, where such Services happen to be naturally most practicable, as well as upon all Accounts most necessary) when such a general Foundation is laid, for an Encouragement and Support to their Industry, will be improving their own small Rivers, to throw 'em into one or other of these Canals; and so, in time, chequer out the whole Kingdom into so many Islands interlac'd with navigable Rivers: And, here this Writer, transported with this pleasing Prospect, which he had figur'd to himself, of his Country's future Improvement, and finding the Advantages of it, much easier to be imagin'd than exprest, seems at a Loss for Words, and therefore quits the Subject with this short Appeal to Mens own Reason and common Experience, viz. 'What the Consequences of such a Service must be, in advancing the Trade and Wealth, as well as improving the Land and Product of the Kingdom, Reason and the Experience of other Nations, have already determin'd, beyond bearing a Proof, or admitting an Objection.

I shall offer you but one Passage more of this Author, by which you'll see how high his Opinion run of this Service, and how great his Zeal was to promote it. He first



makes a Computation of the annual *Land-Carriage* Expence of the Kingdom; and, from a rational Estimate of our yearly exportable Product, and the foreign Returns we have in Exchange for it, from a low Computation (far under the real Number of our standing Complement of *Carrs* and other *Carriages*, (which are, and whilst we thus employ 'em, must be, maintain'd at the Publick Charge, together with the Cattle that draw, and the more miserable People that drive and attend 'em) computes that our Land-Carriage of exportable and foreign-return'd Commodities, together with our own In-land Consumption and Exchanges, (whereof the Carriage is proportionably Expensive; and has, for the most part, the same Right to come into this Account) stands us in above 200,000 *l.* yearly: He then asserts, that this Land-Carriage-Expence of one Year only, wou'd make all the considerable Rivers of the Kingdom navigable, and consequently save the Nation, at least eight Parts in ten, of that yearly Expence for ever after; and adds, that such a present Expence (were it really necessary, and in case such a Benefit cou'd not be had at a cheaper or easier Purchase) wou'd be Money very well laid out, since it wou'd be purchasing a perpetual Inheritance, or, (which is still equal) redeeming a perpetual Incumbrance, at a little more than one Year's Purchase: Having then allow'd it to be still a Work of Time, and scarce possible to be suddenly executed (tho', on no other Account but our Want of a sufficient Number of skilful Hands) concludes in these Words; *viz.* ' Now let the World judge, whether this be a Work of Pleasure or Extravagance, (as some Criticks have call'd it) or of the last Necessity and Convenience? And whether the Poverty we set up against it, be not the very indispensable Motive, that ought to enforce and recommend it? Whether, if we cou'd possibly propose to do the whole Work in a Day, we ought not to raise the whole Money before Night; tho' we were to levy it on Acres or Polls, or borrow it and mortgage the Nation for it? And, in fine, whether we ever did, or probably ever shall, lay out so much Money on half so good a Purchase.

It was in my Thoughts to have said something to you, of the *Liffey* in particular, but shall, perhaps, be suspected (nay, I begin to suspect myself) of some Partiality to it. All I shall therefore say of it, is, that it leads to your *Metropolis*; and that the supplying of that great *Market*, even with its own Consumption (not to mention either *Exports* or *Imports*, which must likewise share in the Benefits of this *Navigation*) may very well recommend it. And, if this be't yet enough, do but think, how it may facilitate the Carriage of the *Kilkenny-Coal*; and think likewise of the *Bog of Allen Turf*, where you have an inexhaustible Fund, and of an excellent Kind; and then compute what immense Sums, how many Thousands *per Ann.* will be sav'd to the Nation in this one Article, should ever that City come to burn but half its Firing (I can't see why it may not, in time, as well as *Amsterdam*, take its whole Complement) of its native Fewel.

But after all, Sir, tho' I own the *Liffey* to be my Favorite, perhaps, because it is my Neighbour *River*, and may turn more to my particular Benefit; yet as we are now advocating for all our *Rivers*, without Distinction; so let no Dispute about Precedence obstruct the good Design: If any other be thought preferable (as we must, and can't help allowing, the *Lough-Neagh Navigation* to be) let it, in God's Name, be preferr'd: Begin any where, it will, in time, come round to us: Do but any one of 'em effectually, and the rest, either sooner or later, will be sure to follow: Every *Navigation* you finish, makes the next still easier, since your very *Fund*, as well as the Number of your experienc'd Hands, are to grow up together to the last Day.

Now to this let it be added, (for it is a Computation of a long standing) that about *two Fifths* of the Lands of the Kingdom, are *unimprov'd improveable Acres*; to which I add, that at least *three Fifths* of these again, are, not only lost and unprofitable in themselves, but so many *impassable, inaccessible Wilderesses*, or (if you will) so many *unnavigable Seas*, through which you can neither wade nor swim, nor make any other Passage;

Age; and are, therefore, just so many Barrs to your mutual *Inland Commerce* one with another; so that these immense *Flats*, which *God* and *Nature* had furnish'd you with, and seem to have pointed out to you, as the chief (if not the only) Means of your Commerce together (it being in these chiefly, if not only, that *Navigable Passages* can be practicable at any tolerable Charge) are, by your own Indolence and Inattention, made the very Reverse of those Blessings, which they are by Nature adapted to, and seem to have been by Providence intended for; and that is, our *mutual inland Commerce* (again I repeat it) one with another, which (however over-look'd, or but very little attended to) will yet, upon due Reflection, be found of infinitely greater Importance to us, than all the real or nominal Advantages you can enumerate, from your *Trade* with any *foreign Nation*, or indeed, with the whole *foreign World* put together: For, whatever Shifts you may make to live independent of other Nations (and, I believe, few other Nations could make better, were you driven to 'em) yet it is impossible you can ever do so, of one another; that is, 'tis impossible you can do it long, and not be undone; 'tis impossible you can do it for a Day, and not be proportionably undone.

For, if it be true, (as it won't, in Strictness, be deny'd) that your importing a *Shilling's-worth* of a foreign Delicacy, even tho' it were such as you cou'd not have procured at Home; yet, being, both perishable and unnecessary, is, *eo ipso*, disappointing yourself, and consequently the Nation, of that *Shilling*, which (had your Luxury or your Vanity permitted you to have made it your Choice) you might have had, in solid lasting *Treasure*, the End and proper Object of *foreign Trade* in a self-sufficient Country like ours: Then, it must be true, *a fortiori*, that there is not a *Shilling*, no nor a *Shilling's-worth*, not even of what you call your spare or superfluous Product (because even this, is at the same time, with some other *Nation*, as high a *Necessary*, and in as high Demand, as the *Shilling* is with you) there is not,  
I say,



I say, a *Shilling* for a *Shilling's-worth*; that you thus send abroad, for a Commodity (ever so necessary) which you have or may have at home, but is just so much Money, that you have strictly and literally (because wilfully and unnecessarily) Robb'd the *Publick*, and *yourself* of.

*Foreign Trade*, Sir, is too large a Field, too deep, too vast a Sea, for me to launch into, farther than as it has thrown itself here in my Way, and as it seems to stand in Contradistinction to that mutual *inland Commerce*, which is my principal Mark; and the Scope and Drift of this Trouble I give you; and without which, I think it is evident, that, not even our so much adored *foreign Trade*, can ever be carry'd on to any considerable Purpose. We may say, then, that *foreign Trade*, is become a Kind of *Common-Place-Word*, but seems to have obtain'd a very different Signification from that, which must have been at first intended by it; and, that what was originally calculated for the real Benefit and Enrichment of the Nation, *i. e.* bringing us home real ready *Money*, (the only Commodity we then wanted, or, that we had, as yet learn'd to know we wanted) is, by Length of Time, and the Corruption and Avarice of Dealers (aided by our own growing Luxury and Vanity) at length modell'd down to the sole Purpose and single Benefit of the Merchant; so liable are the best human Institutions, to deviate from their first Views, and be perverted to sinister and mercenary Purposes.

For, as the *Mexicans* or *Peruvians*, should they take it in their Heads to go a trading with the World abroad, must be oblig'd in common Prudence, to bring home, almost any other Return but *Money*, that being the native Commodity they had to sell, and probably the only one they had carry'd abroad with them.

So in a self-sufficient Country like ours (which in Strictness, may be said to want nothing else but *Money*; and, in the largest Sense, nothing so much, as *Money*) the very *End* and original Intention of *foreign Commerce*, must have been, the converting our superfluous Product, not at all (or, certainly, least and last of all) into

into Excesses of foreign Delicacies; (the Superfluities of other Nations, every whit as perishable, and, perhaps, not half so useful or necessary to Life, as those we give in Exchange for 'em) not into endless Varieties of potent or spirituous Liquors, unknown Compositions, with unmeaning unintelligible *Names*; or, perhaps, with as many different Names to one and the same Liquor, as there are Importers of it for that Season, or Casks of it in the Hands of the same Importer; every one of which, is, in its Turn, not only to denominate the *Species*, but to settle the very *Price*, and the *Flavour*, and the *Salubrity* of it. --- Not altogether into *shining immoderate Apparel*, *golden Cob-Webs*, which you are sure to have torn or tarnish'd, by the first Ruffle or Splash, or Shower that comes at 'em---Not into *Rary-Shews* of childish glittering *Toys*, or whimsical extravagant *Equipages* unsuitable to your Fortune or Station in Life; for tho', by the successive Changes that have happen'd in *Times* and *Things*, and the multiply'd Intercourses of different *Nations*, one with another, and the Reasonableness of some Degree of Conformity in their Manner of Living and Appearing in the World, and Receiving and Entertaining each other, it must be admitted, that Things are become, in some sort, necessary, which were not simply or originally so; and therefore, that not these Things themselves (or, however, not the Whole, or the Lump of 'em are here intended to be quarrell'd with: Yet it ought to be always remember'd, that these (being not only transient and perishable in themselves, but being, even while they last, appropriated rather to *Shew* or *Luxury*, than any real or necessary *Uses*) can bring no Addition of real Wealth to a Nation; but on the contrary, wherever they are indulg'd to Excess (and especially, where almost all Distinction begins to be lost in that Excess) are the Fathers and sure Fore-runners of *Poverty*, and can never fail to beget and introduce it:--- But your spare or superfluous Product should be turned into *Silver*, or *Gold*, or *Jewels*; these being the only Portable (and, next to that of *Land*) the most permanent Securities,

Securities, that can perpetuate your superfluous Product, which had otherwise perish'd; these are the *perennial Tickets* for your *Daily Bread* and all other Necessaries, because always convertible into 'em: On these the whole Trading World have agreed to stamp an indelible Value, whereby they are sanctify'd and establish'd, as so much *real, universal, lasting Wealth*, at all times and every where.----And, next to these, into Improvements of *Land, High-Ways, Bridges, Harbours, and Navigable Rivers; Hospitals, Fortifications, and other Publick Edifices*.-----And, after these, into *Private Buildings, Enclosures, Plantations, Gardening, and other comfortable Accommodations*.-----And, last of all, into rich, but solid *Furniture*; into decent, or even splendid *Apparel and Equipages*, where the *Rank, and Port, and Fortune, and Station* of the Party require it.

And, even here, an Eye and a Regard shou'd be always had to your *Home-Product* and *Native Manufactures*, when you can have 'em as good, or say but near as good (and be still a Customer and Benefactor to your Country) as you can Import 'em from other Nations, and be, so far, its Enemy and unnatural Paricide.

And I would gladly know, now we are upon this Head, (if you except Wines, and Fruits, and Spices, with a very few other Exoticks) what else it is, that you can't have very good, I mean, Sir, very tolerably good, in *Ireland*? Is there a Prince in *Germany* or *Italy*, who may not, without Disparagement to his Rank or Grandeur, Ride in such a *Coach* or *Chariot* as I can have made and finish'd in *Dublin*? Is there a Subject of *Britain*, that need blush to appear dress'd in a choice *Irish Holland* or *Broad-Cloth*? or will he find me a Draper of that nice Eye and exquisite Judgment, that will undertake, at five Yards Distance, to distinguish it from the best he makes at home?----What Manufactures, for Women's Wear, even of foreign Materials, are not made to very good Perfection on the *Coombs*?

And, is the Difference, all this while, so very small, so trifling, between the Things we thus reject at home,



and these of the same Kind, which we remit our Blood; and lavish out our Vitals to the remotest Parts of the World for? Or, admitting this Difference were really greater than I have made it, is it, however, such a Difference as a Man would sell and sacrifice his Country for? the Country that gave him Breath, and gives him Bread; wherein he intends to fix his Posterity, and out of which he has not, perhaps, an Acre nor a Morfel in any other Land under Heaven? Was it not, perhaps, for this very Difference, or some other not exceeding it in Value, that you but t'other day Rack'd and Broke one of your best *Tenants*, tho' you have, for a time, wasted a good Part of your own Estate by it?

You'll answer me, perhaps, in the common Strain; that these are all your own Things, and the Product of your proper *Estate*; that you have 'em to spare, and have a Right to please yourself, and dispose of 'em as you like:

But there are Bounds, Sir, even to *Property*; nor do I see, why even your Life should be any longer your Property, after it is become obnoxious and oppressive to a whole *Community*. — Shall a poor indigent *Starveling* suffer Death, who has trespass'd on you to the Value of but half a Crown, perhaps, to answer some Necessity, which Nature was no longer able to support under? And, shall you, at the same time, conspire the Ruin of a whole *Nation* (and your own, tho' perhaps a little more remotely, involv'd in it) and shall you openly act your Part in it every Day, with Privilege, as well as Impunity.

The *Laws*, Sir, voluminous and extensive as they are, can't reach to every *Case*, much less to every *Man*; who should, therefore, be a *Law* and a *Rule* to himself; as he has, in effect, taken upon him to be a Precedent and a *Law-Giver* to all below him, and in his Power.

After what I have said in Praise and Preference of *Money* (which I never intended to affront, because I make it a Principle to be civil to *Strangers*) it won't be imagin'd that I can have any Intention of declaiming in  
general

general against *foreign Trade*, the only Channel, by which we can possibly come at any *Money*.

What I complain of, is, That our *foreign Trade*, which must have been calculated for converting our perishable superfluous *Product* into real, lasting *Treasure* (something solid and permanent, that may stick by us against a *wet Day*) is insensibly stolen or stray'd out of its *Channel*, and has taken Head another way.

That the immoderate Amount of our *foreign Importations* (of every thing, I mean, but *Money*) exceeds all tolerable Proportion to our *Exports*.

That the Merchant, who is to consider, not so much what is best for us, as what best pleases us, will be sure to import what he finds us fondest of; nor can we expect he should chuse to import *Money*, whilst he finds that any other foreign *Trinkets* will sell better in our *Markets*, and more to his own Profit.

That this, together with our other *absolute Money-Drains* (such I call our outward *Remittances*, for which, we neither have nor expect, any *Returns* at all) must, if some Expedient be not found for our Relief, soon finish our Work, and compleat our Undoing.

I wish the *Cure* of this particular *Evil*, were within the Reach of our *Laws*; or such sumptuary *Laws* within our own Reach and Power, as would effect the *Cure*; Or, that it were practicable to limit, what Kinds or Quantities, or to what Value, or in what Proportion, (even to his own *Exports*, if not to those of the Nation) our foreign *Merchant* shall be at liberty to Import upon us.

But, if this can't be (as there is Reason to fear, from the intricate Nature of the Thing, and our own Inability to act independently, that it would be pretty difficult) we must e'en Resolve it into this; that, as our own *Luxury* and *Vanity* have insensibly administred, and given Birth and Growth to the *Evil*; so, it must only be, by the moderating and restraining of these, that we can ever hope to reduce it to its reasonable *Size* again;

and, by that means, to discountenance and banish the Excess on't.

I know, Sir, that in all this long Digression, I have told you nothing that you did not already know; But what I wholly aim at, is, first to lay before you the State and Sum of those *Publick Grievances*, under which you principally labour; And then, by shewing you whence they come, to let you see at once, how, and how far, and which of 'em, are or are not Curable; I mean, in your own Choice and Power to Cure.

For, as it must be the most abject Despondency, not to attempt your Liberty and Happiness, and rid your self of a grievous *Burthen*, when ever you may; so, 'tis but an Instance of your *Fortitude* and common *Prudence*, when you see you can't get clear of it, not to struggle in vain in the *Toyle*, but set your Heart at rest, and contrive to carry it with the greatest Ease and least Inconvenience to you.

I am not, however, come a *Job's-Comforter*, but to speak real Comfort to you; and to shew you (as, I think, I shall be able to do, before we part) that, altho' some of your heavy *Burthens* are such as you can't hope to throw off, but must, of Prudence as well as Necessity, submit to 'em; yet there are others, (and, indeed, the Bulk and Gros of your Grievances, to the Value of some hundred Thousands a Year; which, perhaps, would make no contemptible Article in the Credit-side of, your *Year's Ballance*) which you may still get clear of, by a seasonable Attention to no very difficult Remedy, which is still in your own Power.

To let you into this Expedient, and the Consequences that may be expected from it; I'll endeavour first, to shew you, what you have hitherto lost for want of it, and what you still do, and ever must lose, till you have Recourse to it.

And here, the first Instance that presents itself, is that very recent and deplorable One, that unparallel'd wilful Devastation in Times of settled Peace, that unnatural unconstrained Destruction of our *Native Timber*, which



we are now forced to Import from other Nations, at an Expence of no less than 44,000*l.* a Year; besides the Land-Carriage of so much of it, as goes from our Sea-Ports into the Midland Country.

This Commodity, Sir, within less than forty Years past, was in such Redundance here, as to have been deem'd a *Nuisance*; and we then call'd ourselves *over-run* with *Woods*: And I have bought no longer ago than the Year 1697, at Derry-Gill near Portumny, a hundred Tun of as fair, well grown Oak-Timber as ever grew (my choice of many thousand Trees then fresh fallen) for only six Shillings the Tun; tho' I afterwards liv'd to pay five Pounds, (and, others I have seen pay six) for a Tun of much worse Timber, the Refuse and Rubbish (for ought I know) of that same *Wood*: So that the Price of Timber in Ireland, in about thirty-two Years, is risen, just Twenty to One, with the farther Loss and Mortification, of being oblig'd to pay this heavy Tax, (not to ourselves, for that were still somewhat tolerable, but) to other People.

And, must not it be an amazing *Paradox* to the next Age, as it is already a fore *Grievance*, as well as a lasting *Reproach*, to this we live in; that we, who, but the other Day, were so abundantly stored with this Commodity, should thus, in half the short Extent of one Generation, so inconsiderately plunge ourselves into the other *Extreme*, as to be now *Suitors* and *Tributaries* to other Nations for it, at such an extravagant Tax, as 44,000*l.* a Year; and without so much as a Prospect of Redemption?

And, must not the Reflection be mortifying at this Day, to a Native and Inhabitant of Ireland, who has been an Eye-Witness of this Plenty, this Abundance of Timber in his Country, that he has now out-liv'd the last Tree on't; and is, at this time, huddling up a miserable Cottage for his Dwelling, with, perhaps, not a Piece of Timber of a Pound-weight in the whole *Fabrick*; not even a *Wattle*, unless such as are made of *Hemlock-Stalks* or *Furzes*, which is already known to be the Case  
in

in many Parts of the Kingdom; And, after all, when he has starv'd and shiver'd out a *weary Life* in a naked, defenceless, uncomfortable *Dwelling*, must, even at his *last Day*, be obliged to *Norway* or the *West-Indies* for his *Coffin*, or be bury'd without one.

Surely, Sir, you'll allow me, that, had we at all consider'd, or given but any kind of Attention, to the real Worth and Excellencies even of this single Commodity of *Timber*, the infinite indispensable Uses it is adapted to; We had not been so unnaturally, so stupidly Lash, of one of the greatest Blessings, annex to *Man* by *Providence*, for his external Accommodation in this *Life*; Nor do I think you can find me, in the whole List of the Creation (next to those which immediately relate to our bodily Sustenance, such as *Food*, *Raiment*, *Fire* and *Water*) one other *Article*, if you except *Iron* alone, that comes into any Degree of Competition with it, for its universal Usefulness, extending to all the various *Turns* and *Occupations* of human Life: For, can you name me that single *Branch*, in *Arts* or *Manufactures*, in *Husbandry* or *Commerce*, or even in *Soldiery* or *Navigation*? is there a *Building* or *Fortification* or other Performance of Moment? an *Engine* or *Machine* of Use or Value in the known World, wherein *Wood* and *Iron* are not the chief *Materials*, or the sole *Utensils*, or all together? In fine, can you *Build* or *Plant*, or *Inclose*? can you *Plough* or *Harrow*, or *Dig* or *Rake*? can you *Sow* or *Save*, or *Dress* or *Carve*, or even to sit down to *Eat* a Meal's-Meat without 'em? To conclude, is it not manifest, that whatever you can reckon considerable, either at *Sea* or *Land*, or *fresh Water*, the *First-Rate* and the *Cock Boat*, the *Palace* and the *Pig-Stye*, the *Main-Mast* and the *Plough-Goad*, the heavy *Waggon* and the *Wheel-Barrow*, even your *Cradle* and your *Coffin*, and almost every other *Turn* and *Transaction*, every *Implement* and *Utensil*, of your whole Life between 'em, are all, in some Measure or other (if not wholly) depending on *Wood* or *Iron*, or both together.

Another

Another Grievance consequent upon the Loss of our *Timber*, or rather imply'd in it, is the Loss of our *Bark*; which we now likewise Import from other Countries, at an Expende of 16,000 *l.* a Year; tho' still, not one Half of our *Leather* is Tann'd at home; but sent away in *raw* or *green Hides*, whereby we are forc'd to give away the Manufacture of it to other People, for want of *Bark* of our own.

This is an additional *Burthen*, which our Posterity of the Third and Fourth Generations (even, tho' we should from this Moment, as I hope we shall, set about Retrieving our *Timber*) must expect to feel; And, unless the *Tormentil-Expedient*, or some other like it, succeeds, (as there are good Hopes given that it will) may, in time, reduce us to *Brogues* of *Green Leather*; only with this wretched Mitigation, of having it still in our Choice, whether to send our *Leather* to be Tann'd abroad, and so enhance the *Price* by a *double Freight*, as well as a *foreign Manufacture* upon our own *Growth*; Or, otherwise, to buy and import our *Bark* from other Countries, as we do our *Timber*; and so, in either Case, be *Dependents* and *Tributaries* to other Nations, as well for the *Shoes* we wear, as the *Houses* we sit in.

I have dwelt the longer upon this Article of *Timber*, with its *Offals* and *Appendages*, in order to lead you, by this one (without frequent Repetitions) into a Knowledge of your Condition, with respect to the several other like *Articles*, which I shall hereafter mention to you, wherein you equally mismanage and are proportionably Sufferers. And, above all, to lead you into this preliminary and general *Postulatum*, viz.

That these, most *simple*, *native*, and *common* (however, perhaps, on these very Accounts, least regarded) *Articles* of human Accommodation; are yet, in themselves, the most simply and indispensably, the most immediately and universally necessary even to our common Subsistence: And, consequently, that the Abuses, which are introduced or admitted into any of these, must be,

of



of all others, the most grievous and insupportable to the *Publick*.

For, you must, upon due Reflection, grant me; that we could much better be without the *Teas*, the *Coffees*, the *Chocolates*; the *Spice*, the *Druggs*, the *Porcelane*; the *Silks*, the *Velvets*, the *Brocades*; and, shall I say, (I am sure I might have said and justify'd it) even the *Silver* and *Gold*, and *Jewels* of the *Indies*; which, in Truth and Strictness, are but Incidents extraordinary to human Support, appropriated to some particular Orders of our People, by far the fewest in Number; and are therefore, *Necessaries*, if at all, but *ad melius esse*, made so chiefly by Custom, or, at most, by the Necessity (as some would have it) of our maintaining a Commerce with other Nations; or, the Reasonableness (as others call it) of our taking off some Part of their superfluous Commodities, as we expect they should ours: Not distinguishing between the very different Motives and Principles, which govern the Dealings of all foreign Nations with us, and ours with them, they ever acting upon pure Necessity, neither taking any other of our Commodities than what are useful and substantial *Necessaries* for Life, nor any more of 'em, than what they have a real Call and Demand for; We, upon meer Wantonness and Choice, taking these perishable Superfluities of theirs, for which we have no real Necessity, scarce any real Use, unless just to gratify these restless unthinking Passions, which seldom know what to call for; never, when to have done! However, all these *Exoricks*, you'll grant me, we could much better be without, than any one of these other simple, native and common Articles, of *Food*, *Rayment*, *Fire*, *Water*, *Timber*, *Iron*, &c. which are instantly and constantly, and indispensably wanting, to every *Man*, at every *Hour*, and almost to every *Use* of Life; and, without which, it would be impossible for us to subsist a Week.

You have now seen, that, by this fatal Destruction of our *Woods*, we have drawn upon *ourselves*, and (which, is yet worse) have entail'd upon our *Posterity*, a Tax  
of

of 60,000 *l.* a Year, in these two Articles of *Timber* and *Bark* only; besides an annual Loss, perhaps, of about 6,000 *l.* more, by exporting the Bulk of our *Hides* raw and untann'd, and thereby giving away the *Manufacture* of 'em to other Countries, for want of *Bark* enough at home, I mean the want of *Money* enough to fetch it home, or to purchase a sufficient Quantity of it; all that we are able to procure or import of this *Commodity*, being not sufficient to Tann our yearly Complement of *Hides*.

This precipitate, tho' unprovok'd, Transaction; this unexampled Destruction of our *Woods*, as if we had started and run for a Wager, is certainly a Piece of *History* that will scarce bear telling to another *Generation*; and perhaps even you, in whose Knowledge and Memory it has been transacted, may be at a Loss, how to account for it; tho' you have seen many a spacious *Wood* and stately *Grove*, Mow'd down in a Season, as far as you could carry your Eye over the Country round you, only for the sake of the *Bark*; but without a Thought or Prospect of making any other Market of the *Timber*, than perhaps, at best, to burn it into *Char-coal* (for that was the highest Use that was made of it, where there was a Demand for that *Commodity*) but mostly into *Ashes*, only to clear the Land of it; And, where that Industry was wanting, lay stretch'd (each *Tree* where it fell) till they rotted; and, as bearing some Resemblance to so many *Camps*, whereby the Vulgar, generally call'd *Garrane-Banes*, i. e. *White Horses*: When it was, yet, notorious, that many other Parts of the Kingdom, were at the same time, as well as now, buying their *Timber* from *Norway* or the *West-Indies*; Nay, that the *Timber* of most of our *Cage-Work Houses* (still remaining in almost all Parts, of what is call'd the *City*, or *Old Dublin*) were imported ready fram'd out of *Holland*, at the same time that all the Midland Parts of *Ireland* were over-run and perfectly Incumber'd with *Woods*.

But you are to know, Sir, that the Reason of that unnatural Waste; (or, I should rather have said, the

Necessity of it, which is ever as strong, if not always as good, as any other Reason) is plain and obvious: It was the want of any tolerable *Communication* between the *Midland Country* and the several other Parts of the Kingdom round it, whereby they might have taken off the *Redundances*, and supply'd the mutual *Necessities* and *Counter-Demands* of each other.

It was because, when the Neighbourhood, within some very inconsiderable Distance of any of these fallen *Woods*, had serv'd themselves with their present Complement of the *Timber*; the Remainder, which would not bear the *Land-Carriage* to farther Distances, became an Incumbrance to the Land that bore it; Whereas had there been but a *Water-Carriage* for this *Timber*, it might have been waisted at an easy Charge to any other Part of the Kingdom (I am sure, for a *Crown* the *Tun* to the remotest Parts on't) and sold at reasonable Rates wherever there was a Demand for it; and this would, not only, have sav'd to the *Owner* (and consequently to the *Nation*) the real Value of that *Timber* so waisted and destroy'd, but would have prevented the like Destruction in many other Parts of the Kingdom, who doubtless at the same time, and under the same, or the like Disadvantages, were committing the like Waste and Havock of their *Woods* also; whereby we have unnecessarily destroy'd more *Timber* in a Year, than might have serv'd the Nation for Twenty, were it but Communicable, and had we but any practicable Intercourse or Commerce one with another.

I know, that this Destruction of our *Woods*, is by some, charg'd wholly upon our *Iron-Works*; And I'll grant you, that they have not been wanting to destroy their Share of 'em, that is, as far as they could reach 'em: But then, I still insist, that even this was done, and tolerated, or rather, not hindred to be done, for the very Reasons that have been already given, viz. that they were thought, at that time, good for little else, but Burning; that we had, in reality, taken up a kind of *Prejudice* to *Woods*; and, no Body, til it was too late, thought



thought 'em worth preserving: Otherwise, had they been aware of the Mischief, they were then a doing; had they foreseen or imagin'd this Dearth and Scarcity, that *Timber* is now come to, and the high *Prices* it bears; 'tis evident, that (whether they would, or, perhaps, would not, have gone to the Cost or Trouble of *Planting*) they might, however, with very little Charge, have Preserv'd the *Woods* they had; and, whenever they made a *Fall*, might have Cops'd, and so Recruited and Maintain'd their *Woods* for ever, as is done in other Places: And, 'tis well enough known, that the hundredth Part of the *Woods* we have Destroy'd in *Ireland*, might, under any proper Regulations, have Maintain'd, not only our own, but all the *Iron-Works* of *SPAIN* and *SWEDE N* together, to the Day of *Doom*.

But, the Truth is, upon the whole Matter; had our *Timber* been communicable and Saleable; had there been an easie Communication between those Parts of the Kingdom that wanted it, and those that had it, and were at the same time, paying good Prices for *foreign Timber*; Our *Woods*, as they would have been worth Money, would have been thought worth Preserving: But our *Timber* gave no Price til there was very little on't left; and then, it gave so much and so suddenly, there was no keeping, even that little, against so Powerful, so surprizing a Temptation.

This want of a Communication among our selves (by which we have already lost these two Important Articles, our *Timber* and our *Bark*; and, without which, we shall ver be able to Retrieve, never to make 'em worth Retrieving) was, however, not so much our *Act*, as our *Neglect*; it being an *Original Defect*, which we had been either not Vigilant enough to foresee, or not Active enough to supply, before we were hurt by it; but which we may yet overtake, so as to prevent its affecting us for time to come, in the several other *Species's* of our own *Product*, wherein it has been hitherto equally hurtful to us.

But there seems to be, another occasional (I think we may call it an acquir'd) *Impediment* in this Case; and that is, the little Encouragement given to Planting, or rather the actual Discouragements put upon that, and (in effect) upon all other Kinds of Improvement of Land, and amounting to little less than a Prohibition.

For, the Bulk of the Occupants of Land in *Ireland*, are a Part of our People, under legal Disabilities of taking any Interest in the Lands they Hold; and thereby stript of all certainty of Reaping the Benefit of their own Improvements; nay, have something, near tantamount to a Moral Certainty, that they shall not.

You'll tell me, perhaps, (and I own the Fact to be so) that *Timber* may be still propagated by Industry; that the meanest Farmer, may, without any sensible Expence, Plant *Timber* enough, not only to Answer the Uses of his own *Holding*, but some to spare for the *Market* besides: That the smallest, the most insignificant Farm, has generally some small *Out-skirts*, some irregular *Off-sets*, where Clumps or Tufts of these *Timber-Trees* may be commodiously Planted and preserv'd: That, at the Worst, there is always Room enough in the very *Hedge-Rows*, and without any sensible Waste or Loss of Ground, for this Purpose; Nay, that this Farmer may Plant, a young *Oak*, or *Ash*, or *Elm* for 2 d. (and, if he goes the frugal way to Work, and Raises 'em from his own Nurseries, may do it for a *Half penny*) which, in twenty Years, may be worth from Ten to Fifteen, or perhaps twenty Shillings a Tree.

Now, all this I grant you, he may do: But then, this Farmer will ask you, to what Purpose? that is, to what purpose of the Farmer's, unless to Turn himself out of that very *Farm* which he has been thus Planting and Improving: For, he foresees, that the more and the better he Improves it, the surer he is to turn out on't at the End of his short *Term*; when, by the Laws, as they now stand, he is to be Cut off with only *one Third* (or the Value on't) of these very *Trees* that have been the

the means of turning him out; with the Liberty only, of Cursing the rest, and, perhaps, his own Hands, into the Bargain for having ever Planted or preserv'd 'em.

Surely, Sir, It were to be wish'd, that every Man who holds Land in the Kingdom, were interested to Improve and to Better it; or, at least, were not Interested against it; since it must be hard for a Nation to thrive or Improve in its *Land*, where Nineteen in Twenty of its Occupants (so many we may reckon the Low *Farmers* and their *Underlings*) are Interested to Destroy it; that is, not only to Debase and Impoverish, but even to Disfigure and Disparage it; so as to leave it worth no body else's Coveting; tho' they run the hazard of making it not worth their own Holding; just as a Man would desperately chuse to have a Right to Hobble upon his own Horse, tho' Crop't and Shorn, tho' blind and lame and Sparr-Ribb'd, and without Shooe to his Foot or Saddle to his Back; than to see another Owner Pickeer and Capriole and Corvet upon him, in ever so good Plight and gay Furniture.

I know, Sir, that *Laws* (especially those Extensive ones, which reach to no less than settling the *Interests*, and Providing for the *Safety* of whole Nations, in the very Essentials of their Settlement and Constitution) are tender and sacred Things, and ought to be held and treated as such: And it ought to be with the greatest Caution (but, above all, with the clearest Conscience, and (if such a Qualification cou'd be in a Man's own Power) with the most solid Judgment too) that Men should venture to Observe or Animadvert upon 'em, in any Publick Manner.

But, as I am conscious to my self, that I come furnish'd with this principal Qualification, of being wholly unprejudiced and wholly disinterested: For, I Bless God that I can say it, (and am bold to say it, because he is my Judge and my Witness that I say it truly) that, tho' I have neither Acre nor Employment, nor Pension under the *State*, nor Preferment nor Prospect in the *Church*; I am, in Sincerity of Heart, and in a  
peaceful



peaceful Conviction of Judgment, as firmly attacht and as tenderly well affected, to our happy Constitution and settled Succession, and to the sober Discipline and rational Christian Worship, of the National Establish'd Church of *Ireland*, as any Man that draws Breath under 'em, or has a Thousand or ten Thousand a Year, in any one or all of 'em. And as, on the other Hand, to Compensate for the insufficiency of my Judgment (of which I am very thoroughly conscious) I have the Comfort to know that I am not alone in these Sentiments, that I speak not my own (for, I dare not allow my self to think so far, without better Opinions to Countenance and Confirm me) but the Sense of many, as good Men, and as zealous Patriots, of as uncontroverted Understandings, and as far above Suspicion of Byass or Weakness, as well affected to our *Constitution*, and as ready to sacrifice their *All* for it, as any that I know living in the World.

And, moreover; As the general Improvement of my Country (of which, I ever thought it in extreme Need, and extremely capable) is what I have ever studied and had in my View, since I have been able to Reflect, or Compare, or make any Judgment of Things. And as this, in the *Course* of my *Surveys* and Enquiries, has given me Opportunities, or rather put me under Necessities, of Remarking, what the Obstacles were, that stood in its way; And, by Traceing our *Grievances* back to their Fountains, to Discover and assign, whence they had proceeded. As,

Whether, in the first Place, from any Natural, Inherent and insuperable Incapacities, arising from any unalterable Quality of our Soil, or Climate, or Situation, or other incurable Disadvantages; which (being the Acts or Dispensations of God) we must have been oblig'd to sit down with, and ever acquiesce to.

Or, whether 2. from occasional Restrictions or Impositions, from other superior Jurisdictions; which (being not our own, but the Acts of other Societies, nor in our own Power to undoe) we must likewise,  
for

for the present, submit to; and wait God's time, and a better Frame of Mind in our mistaken *Elder Brethren*; when, by a nearer and a cooler Consideration, even of their own true Interests, they may come to see, (what must be eternally true) that every Degree of Oppression or Severity, they extend to us, must be, so far, a wounding and a Weakening of themselves.

Or, whether 3. from any natural (but removeable) Obstacles, to the *Peopling* and *Improving* our Lands, Introducing *Art* and *Manufactures*, and promoting *Husbandry* and *Commerce* (without which, all other Attempts towards the Strengthening or Enriching a Country, must ever prove vain and ineffectual) Or, perhaps, from any Original unobserv'd Defects in our Civil Oeconomy and Pursuit of these Ends; All which (being, if not our own *Acts*, yet at least, our apparent *Neglects*; and the Remedies being, by that Implication, always in our own Power) may yet be Retriev'd by Care and Application.

Or, lastly, Whether from any actual and positive Disabilities, or adventitious Abuses or Impediments, which, through Mistake or Misconcertment, we might have directly Created to our selves; and which, through Habit or Prejudice or Inattention (or, perhaps, through a little Mixture of Tenacity and Inconviction) we may still suffer to remain on us; like Men neither quite willing to be thoroughly convinc'd of their Error, nor well knowing how to set about retracting or rectifying it.

From these Considerations, and from the *Province* I have undertaken, of Searching into the Wounds, and faithfully Reporting the true State and Condition of a *Nation*, sunk into a deep *Decay* by Loss of *Blood* and *Spirits*, and languishing under a Complication of other growing Maladies; of Pointing out the Particulars of its *Grievances*, with the Obstacles that stand in the way of their *Cure*; and the Means and Remedies which may best Surmount and Conquer these Obstacles; I make it the highest Conscience, and think it inexcusably Incumbent on me, to Discharge that *Duty*, (which regards no less than

than the perpetual Common Good of my *Country*, in that particular Branch of its *Improvement*, which I had made the Business and Study of my Life, at the Expence of the greatest Part and best Years on't, and of my Health into the Bargain) with the greatest Freedom, Plainness and Sincerity, and without any Minceing, Hesitation or Reserve; since, whoever Palliates the *Disease*, must be in a fair Way to make, at best, but a *Palliative Cure*.

I premise then, That these *Disabling Laws* were made in *Times* of Ferment and Unsettlement, upon the Heels of our Intestine Troubles, scarce then Compos'd, and which had left deep Impressions on the Minds of those who had sorely suffer'd in these Commotions; when Numbers of our People (and, among them, a good many Train'd and Inur'd to *Arms*) who had unhappily Acted or appear'd on the wrong Side of that *Quarrel*, were naturally (and but reasonably) suspected, of strong Inclinations to the *Cause* they had Miscarry'd in, and a Disposition to Relapse, and to Embrace and favour it again, if ever it should come upon the Carpet; And, above all, when their grand *Pillar* and *Patron*, LEWIS-LE-GRAND, (who kept half the *World* on Fire, whilst he stay'd in the *World* himself) had not yet been humbled; but continued openly to Declare and Act in favour of that *Cause*; when we expected him, as Men do *Death*, knowing neither the *Day* nor the *Hour*, when he might take it in his Head to throw in fresh  *Succours* here, to give them fresh Opportunities; whether, in reality, for their Service, or whether to make Diversions to favour his other boundless Designs, it matter'd not: And it was highly reasonable, nay, it was but common Prudence, to have a watchful *Eye*, and hold a strait *Hand* too, over a Set of People in that Disposition and in that Capacity, of Disturbing, or perhaps, overturning our *Settlement*. Nor is it so much to be wonder'd at, if even the *Makers* of that Extensive *Law*, did not, (at such a Juncture, and in such Circumstances) at once foresee all these Consequences which it has since Draw'n after it;

since



since a *Law* must be of more than human Institution and Modeling, not to be lyable to some unforeseen *Inconveniences*.

Now, by the *Negative Discouragements* put, by that *Law*, upon *Papists* in case of their continuing such; and, by the positive *actual Encouragements*, given their *Posterity* to Conform to the *Establisb'd Church*; It should seem to have been Intended by the *Law* (and it was, indeed, all that was necessary to be Intended by it) first, to make the then present *Set* or *Generation* of *Papists* (if not good *Protestants* by *Conviction*) yet, at least, good *Subjects* by *Necessity*; and, 2. to Induce their *Descendents* to be good Ones, by *Principle* and *Choice*: And it has been thought by many, that, with respect to both these *Views*, that *Law* might have Done more, had it Said less.

For, had the *Papist* been left at liberty, to Purchase but the *Forfeitures* of that *Rebellion*, (and even that, as we may see anon, had been perhaps an unnecessary *Restriction*) Or such *Debenture* (or other) *Lands*, as were upon the same footing with it, and must have been voided and lost to him upon any succeeding *Revolution*; Or, could he but have taken long *Terms* in beneficial *Leasehold Interests*, and have fined off (say but one Third of) the Improv'd *Rents*; Or, had he any other Possibility left him, of turning the Produce of his Industry into some valuable *Stake* of any Competent *Duration* in the Kingdom; And were all these *Interests* and *Acquisitions* of his, made still devolvable upon those of his *Descendents* who should Qualify themselves by Conforming to the *Establisb'd Church*, (which I would, by all means and upon all both Religious and Political *Maxims*, have to Extend at all times, to all the *Estates* and *Acquisitions* of *Papists* exceeding Years; and themselves in the mean time, Excluded the *Magistracy* and all *Employments* and *Places* of Trust or Power in the *State*;) then the Consequence must have been, that, tho' all these *Spiritual* and *Temporal* Advantages, tender'd him by the *Law*, should fail of Working his Instant Conversion, and mak-

ing him a Profess'd good *Protestant*; yet, his good *Protestant Estate and Interest*, could never fail to make him an immediate good *Subject*; And tho', here and there *One*, should prove so *Hide-bound*, whether upon *Principle* or *Puncto* (for in your own Knowledge of Men, you can't but know, that this latter is sometimes, none of the smallest Ingredients in Men's Obstinacy and Hesitation in the Point of *Conversion*) as to stand Proof against such persuasive and advantageous *Terms*; If, in short, he would not Conform and Qualify himself to keep an *Estate*, you may depend, another would, to get it: And so, as sure and as fast, as a *Papist* had got himself an *Estate* or other valuable *Interest*, and but a Brace of *Sons*, Or (for lack of these) but a Pair of *Nephews* or *First-Cousins*; so sure had you been, to have one of 'em Conform and become a *Protestant*.

For, tho' the Exchanging one's *Religion* for a better, (even turning *Tayl* to *Tayl*) must, at least on one Side, be allow'd a good *Swapp*; yet, a little *something* to Boot is never understood to mean any harm, because *Something*, they say, has some *savour*. And, I believe, Sir, should we go back to the *Reformation*, we should find, that the prudent Disposal of the *Abby-Lands* and *Impropriations*, had, to human Appearance, no small Hand in its taking such *Head*, and making so quick a Progress; which, notwithstanding that concurring *Circumstance*, (considering that it had all the Powers of all *Papish Christianity* to fight its way through) was, surely, an Instance of a Miraculous *Providence*, second to none, since the first Planting of the *Christian Gospel* under the like Disadvantages.

Had this, or something like it, been the *Method* pursued in Managing and Converting the *Papists* of *Ireland*; It is, I think, pretty manifest, that we should have had most of 'em *Protestants* by this Day, I mean so many of 'em, as then had, or could since have acquir'd, any *Estates* or valuable *Stakes* in the Kingdom; the rest, I presume, are not yet worth our very great Concernment;

ment; or, however, not worth our *Saving* whether they will or no.

And, if it should be Objected, that there could be no relying on the *Sincerity* of such *Occasional Converts*; I Answer, that you may have as little to do with their *Sincerity* as you please; Trust 'em with nothing but their own, at least, till they have serv'd a reasonable time of *Probation*; (because such a *Trust*, is what a recent *Convert* can't, in Modesty, ask; nor you, in Prudence, Repose in him) And, if any *Doubts* or *Inconvictions* should still remain with 'em as to their *New Religion*, or any *Hankerings* after the *Old One*; these, being but *Prejudices* of Education, if they don't wear off in *themselves*, will be sure to be *Extinguish'd* in their *Posterity*; who, by the same Rule and Reason of *Prepossession*, will be as good (or as much) *Protestants*, and perhaps as inflexibly *prejudic'd* to *Popery*, as if their *Grand-Sires* had been so from *Henry the VIIIth*.

This, Sir, had been a cheap and an honest way, of *Bribing* Men, with a *little* of their own *Substance* (and for *abundance* of their own *Good*) into *Religion* and *Loyalty*; *Redeeming* 'em, literally and indeed, from *Popery* and *Slavery*, and making 'em at once, *good Protestants* and *good Subjects*; and consequently good and useful *Members* of the *Common-Wealth*.

Upon the whole, Sir, I can't for my *Life* see, that there can be any better Way, (if there be any other) of *Attaching* a Man to a *Constitution*, and *Engaging* him both by *Interest* and *Inclination* to *Support* it; than, first, *Cherishing* and *Protecting* him, and then, making his *Estate* and his *Fortune* (which are his *Bread* and his *Life*) so dependent on it, as ever to *stand* or *fall* with it; A *Beggar* and a *Slave*, Sir, has nothing to *lose*, nothing to *save*; He has neither *Liberty* nor *Property* to *Defend*; No *Change* can make his Condition worse, tho' it may give him some *Chance* for bettering it; Nay, he seems to have no *Chance* nor *Prospect*, but in a *Change*; And who, that were a *Beggar* and a *Slave*,



would not at least wish, for a *Change* of that *Condition*?

Besides, Sir, Occasional and severe *Laws*, (as they are never made of Inclination or Choice, but Necessity) ought, by necessary Implication, to be *Temporary*; and, to Cease with the *Occasions* themselves; and, in the mean time, to abate and relax in Proportion as these do.

Now the very Reasons and Motives which gave occasion to that *Law*, even, tho' they had been (as I can't think they were) a Competent and adequate Foundation for such a *Law*, (at least, not for the *Extremities* it happen'd to be carry'd to) are, however, now done away; Not one of 'em, that we have before recited, is now Subsisting, except that great Numbers of the *Irish* (but of the lowest and poorest of 'em) continue still *Papists*: And I think it has been shewn, that it is owing to the *Exceedings* or *Incompetencies* of that *Law*, that they are not (most of 'em) Conform'd by this time.

However, of the whole set of *Papists*, who liv'd at the making of that *Law*, and at whom it was, perhaps in a good Measure, and not without good Reason, personally Level'd, very few are now surviving; and many of the most considerable *Heads* of 'em, or their Descendants, are since become *Protestants*: So that they have neither the *Numbers*, nor *Leaders*, nor *Discipline* at home, nor the *Alliances* nor *Expectations* of Supplies from abroad, which they were then suppos'd to have, or which may render 'em in any Degree formidable to us: And, were all these Circumstances still Subsisting, yet I should still think 'em very cogent Reasons, rather for Reclaiming and Recovering our own *People*, and attaching and Securing 'em to our selves; than Distressing or Driving 'em into *Poverty* and *Despair*; and making 'em, at best, for ever *lost* and *useless* to us.

You'l grant me, Sir, that it were greatly to be wish'd (because it had been very happy for them and us) that there had been no such *Necessity* or *Occasion* for such a *Law*, but that our *People* had been, at that time, all *Protestants*; and united by their Interests and Inclinations

ons to Strengthen themselves and Support the *Government* and *Constitution* that Protected 'em: And, was this so desirable a *Blessing* then, and at all other times? and shan't it be so now? Or, shan't we, by all rational and probable Means, Endeavour to bring Things to that desirable *Pass*, which we our selves wish 'em at?

Must not it, then, be unhappy and unnatural, that such an *Occasional* and *Severe Law* shall still Subsist, which tends to perpetuate its own *Occasion* and *Severities*; by which we have *Cut off* and *Disabl'd* the far greater Part of our own *People*, and by which they are kept still Divided from us, or not at all Induc'd to Unite with us?

You may, (if you think your self able, and will chuse to be at that Trouble) hold a Man in *Ropes* and *Chains*; but then what are you more than his *Jaylor*, and he your wretched *Prisoner* and useless *Slave*? And, tho' a *Thief*, by the Law, deserves to be *hang'd*, (and it is necessary it should be so, for a Terror to *Theft*, and for the Safety of the *Community*) yet, shall I Provoke a Wretch to turn *Thief*, or put any Necessities upon him of Continuing *such*, merely for the Pleasure of *hanging* him?

Had not you better have one voluntary *Deferter* from the Enemy, than take three of 'em *Prisoners*, because the *Deferter*, by taking one from the Enemy and adding him to you, is always two to you; whereas your *Prisoners*, tho' they have, for the present, so far weaken'd the Enemy; yet, to you, are but a Burthen and an Incumbrance; with not so much as a Prospect of an *Exchange* for 'em.

God, in his Dispensations both of the *Old* and *New Testament*, has thought fit to annex *Temporal Blessings*, and even *Temporal Honours* and *Power*, as Rewards and Encouragements to *Faith* and *Obedience*: How frequently is it propos'd to the *Israelites*, that, on Condition of their good Behaviour, they shall Possess a *Land flowing with Milk and Honey*; and to *David* upon the like Terms, that there shall not be wanting one of his *Seed* to sit on the *Throne* for ever; And to the first *Christians*, that,

that, if they will *seek first the Kingdom of God*, then *all these outward Things* shall be *added unto them*, &c.

However, Sir, you have no need to give this *Papist* any thing of your own; only let him get honestly what he can for himself; And, the more and the faster he acquires a *Fortune* by his Industry, so much the sooner and surer may you depend on his Coming over to you, and Joining you with that *Fortune*; Or, if he does not, that another will, and soon: Since there is little reason to fear, that a good *Popish Fortune* can long want a *Protestant Heir*, when he can have it for only telling his Name.

But, as you give him nothing, take nothing from him, more than just the *Guardianship* of his *Family* (which will be very much for his and their Service;) and the Priviledge only, of Preferring the most *worthy* of 'em to that *Fortune* which he has acquir'd for 'em: Your *Clemency* is sufficiently extended in Protecting the *Refractory*; but your *Justice* should Reward and Cherish the *Obedient*: Be kind to all, but especially to those of the *Household of Faith*.

This he can't justly Complain of, but must be satisfy'd and pleas'd to see; that there is no sinister Design upon his *Fortune*, no Intention to put it out of his *Blood* or *Family*; and therefore, if he has a *Pett* or *Favourite* among 'em, to whom he would have it Descend preferably to the rest, tis odds (however squeamish or skin-ty'd he may be himself) but he finds a way, (were it but to give way) to that *Favourite's* Conforming and Qualifying timely, least perhaps another may, and get the *Start* of him. For, it is the Number of *Chaps*, that ever Raises and Quickens the *Market*.

If the *American Planter* is, himself, so far a *Slave*, as to be Oblig'd to keep his *Negra's* in awe by *Whips* and *Chains*; he has, however, a Benefit in view by that Drudgery; that is, he has the *Labour* of these *Slaves*, to Compensate for that Toyle and Hazard he undergoes; But, what Prospect or Satisfaction can you propose, by being oblig'd to stand upon the Watch over  
your



your own *Negro's*, whom you have only *Cut off* from your own *Body*; and who are thereby made, not only helpless and *useless* to themselves, but a Clogg and an *Incumbrance* to you.

Had it not been infinitely better, by all soft and safe means, to Reclaim and Recover your own lost *People*, to Invite and Induce 'em to Return to your *Protection* and their own *Birth-Right*, (which is undoubtedly, to be a *Part* of you) and so Strengthen and Enrich your selves by the Accession of such *Numbers* and their *Industry*, which you are so much and so visibly in want of; than be thus oblig'd to stand upon the perpetual *Watch*, in perpetual Distrust and Jealousie of 'em; to Govern 'em only by Threats and Punishments, and holding the *Ax* over their *Heads*; and so, Retrench and keep 'em for ever *Slaves* and *Beggars* in themselves; and, not only lost to the *Community*, but an *Eye-Sore* and a standing *Grievance* to it?

In fine, Sir; would it not be a Glorious and a happy *Sight*, to see the *People* of *IRELAND* all *Protestants*, United in Hearts and Interests, and Enabled to Support (or bear their *Part* in Supporting) their *Trade*, their *Friends* and their *Constitution*? And, shall any thing be done or kept on Foot, to Defeat or Retard that Blessing? Shall any thing be left undone (that can safely and justly be done, and that is in our Power to do) to Promote and accomplish it?

I now Dismiss this *Topick*, which I know my self far unequal to; but, which I could not avoid touching upon, as it stood bolt in my way, to the *Improvement* of *IRELAND*; This being the *Part* I first set out for, and to which I was oblig'd and determin'd to steer and hold on my *Course*, through whatever *Rubs* or *Obstacles* might have fallen in my Way: And shall only draw this general *Inference* from the whole; That, whilst we continue in this State of Intestine *Division* and *Unsettlement* (which is a State, at best, but of a *Defensive Warfare*) It is impossible, humanly Speaking, we can ever arrive at any Degree of *Strength*, or *Wealth*, or *Happiness*

*pinest* in our selves; Or, of *Interest*, or *Weight*, or *Credit* with other Nations.

From Reclaiming and Reforming our *People*, let us Return to the Recovering and Improving our *Land* and our *Product*, which we shall find (just as we left 'em) Bleeding and Languishing for want of these very *People*; but incapable (in our present Situation) of Entertaining or Employing or Maintaining, even the *People*, which it so much wants.

And, in order to this, let us first agree in a few fundamental *Preliminaries*, viz.

That lost and unprofitable *Lands* are only to be Recover'd and Improv'd by *Labour*; such as *Draining*, *Manuring*, *Tilling*, *Inclosing*, *Sheltering*, *Planting*, &c.

That this is only to be done by *People*; And, that even the best and most fertile *Lands*, without *People*, are never to be made the most of, nor brought to their best Perfection.

That, however, Employing or putting *People* to *Labour*, unless the Produce of that *Labour* be such as will Pay and Maintain 'em, (and something over) is Doing just *Nothing*, or *Something* much Worse.

That, in order to make any *Land* capable of Maintaining, as well as Employing its Complement of *People*, by which alone, it can be worth Recovering or Improving) it must first be made habitable, by having the several *Species* of its *Product* Communicable and Transportable at a tolerable *Charge* (and without Eating themselves out on the *Road* by the *Carriage*) from the several Places where they may respectively abound, to others that may be equally in Want of 'em; and may have, at the same time, some other peculiar *Species* of their own, in like Redundance, to Exchange and Return for 'em: That is, the *People* of

Of this *Land* must have a Communication, first, with the several Parts (or, at least, with some or other of the *Sea-Ports*) of the same Kingdom or Country; and, through them, with such other more Remote Parts of the World, as they may have Occasion to *Traffick* with.

That a Country made thus *Habitable*, and by these Means, capable of Employing and Maintaining its *People*; must, of Course, soon Invite and attract *People* to Inhabit and Improve it.

That *People* thus profitably Employ'd, and having got once into the Road of *Trade* and *Improvement*, will be both Spirited and enabled to Exert in *Manufactures*; which, on the other hand, in a *Peopled Trading Country*, must beget and Improve one another, as the Demands and Consumptions Encrease upon each.

That the Profits made upon One *Manufacture*, must ever Invite and enable Men to Try and Excel in another; the Prospect of *Gain* being the Whet-stone of *Industry*, the Parent of *Emulation*, and the great Incentive to Improvement in *Arts* and *Manufactures*.

That the *Strength* and *Wealth* of *NATIONS* must ever consist in the *Numbers* and profitable *Employments* of their *People*.

That there can be no *Strength* nor *Wealth*, without *People*: No such thing as *National Strength* or *Wealth*, but diffusively in the *People*.

That a *Million* Sterling in the Hands or Coffers of *One Man* (who knows or makes no other use on't, than not to part with it) can amount to no more than *One Dead Million*, and *One Dead Man*.



But that this *Money* Diffus'd through Numbers of *Husbandmen, Traders, Manufacturers, &c.* (say, at 100 *l.* a Head) and by them Employ'd and Circulated in their respective *Occupations*, would be a *Million* of quick or *Live-Money*, with Ten Thousand Pair of living *Hands* at the Back on't; having, every one of 'em, an Interest and a Property to Defend in it; a Gain and a Profit to make upon it; his *Business* and his Family to Maintain by it; And, being in Interest oblig'd to Improve and Encrease it by his Industry, will be thence enabl'd to Contribute (every Man *Something*) to the Publick Support and Exigencies.

That if the whole Kingdom were own'd and Possess'd and Inhabited by *One Man* (and the whole were One Extended *Gold-Mine*, as deep as to the *Earth's Centre*, or his own *Antipodes*) yet all this could amount to no more, than the *Maintainance* of that *One Man*: Or rather, a useless, worthless, unactive *Heap*, in the Imaginary Possession of a Helpless, Wealthless, Defenceless, Nominal *Owner*: who, in the Course of the longest *Life* you could assign him (tho' you should Indulge him to the *Longevity* of the *Antediluvians*) could never, with all that *Land* and all that *Treasure* at his Foot, Compass the Making himself one *Shirt* to his Back, nor a *Bed* to lye in; nor go through one Half of all the other *Trades*, and *Tools*, and *Implements* that are previous and preparatory one to another, before he could come to the Working and Finishing of one *Webb* of *Linnen*.

That, notwithstanding this indispensable Necessity of *People*, towards Improving or Strengthening or Enriching a *Country*; yet, Attempting to *People* it, before it is made thus *habitable* and its Product *Communicable*, were but to begin at the *wrong End*; and, so to Confound and preposterate the *Means*, as never to come at the *right One*: Since it is Evident, that Numbers of *People* added to us now, in the unprovided Condition we are in, would but Incumber and undo us; and must  
only

only Eat up those we already have, or be Eaten by 'em.

For, as in *Natural*, so in *Political Diseases*, where the Process of the *Cure* is taken from wrong *Indications*, the most *foreign Specificks* may be perverted into the Rankest *Poysons*.

*Lover*

So, tho' the *first Story* in a *Building* should be a Scaffold as well as a Foundation to the *next*, and that to a *Third*, and so on to the uppermost: Yet, if a Man should begin at his *Garrots*, it would be no difficult Matter to Predict the Success of his *Building*: I suppose one might venture to say of him, that he were in a fair Way to *Build down* his *House*; and that there would be, very probably, many more *Stories* on't, without, than within his *Doors*.

That, in a *Self-sufficient Country*, stored with the main *Necessaries* for *Life*; Their *Trade* with foreign Nations, should be, by *Exportation* of their perishable *Spare-Product* and *Manufactures*, to bring home real lasting *Wealth*, i. e. *Ready Money*: Because, what they Import besides, (however it may accommodate or amuse) can never Strengthen nor Enrich, but must so far, Weaken and Impoverish 'em.

That the *Midland Parts* of *Ireland*, by their Remote Distance from *Sea-Ports*, (which are the *Doors* and *Thorough-fares* of *Exportation*) and by the want of a *Water-Carriage* to 'em, are render'd *unhabitable* and *unimproveable*; the *Product* of the *Midland Acre* being unable to bear the *Land-Carriage-Expence* to Market, and consequently incapable of making any *Rent* by *Tillage*: Whereby the *Owner* or other *Ocupant*, instead of *Peopling* or *Improving* this *Acre*, must e'en be Content to Clap a *Beast* upon it; because this, at the worst, will *Carry* it self to Market: Suffering no more *People* on his *Land* (be it ever so Extended) than, here and

there, a solitary *Herd*; and perhaps a few other *Hands* in quality of *Half-Domesticks* about his Doors, just to do the necessary Works of his *private Demesne*, and for the Support of his own *Family*.

That, on the other Hand, If the Owner or Occupier of this *Midland Acre* (suppose at *Athlone* or *Longford*, Fifty Miles distant from *Dublin*) could, by the Advantage of *Water-Carriage*, send the Product of this *Acre* to *Dublin-Market*, with the same Ease, Safety and Certainty, and with the same, or no greater Expence, than the Man at *Palmer's Town* within three Miles on't, now does by *Land*: Then, 'tis Evident, that the *Man* and his *Acre* at *Longford* or *Athlone*, would be in effect, and to all Uses and Purposes, within three Miles of *Dublin*.

That, in a *Country* thus Quarter'd out and Interlaced with *Navigable Rivers*, Every *Man* (and every *Acre* and *Commodity* he has) is equally and indifferently *every where*, or nearly so; because he may, at a Short *Warning*, and at an inconsiderable *Expence*.

That, If the *Dutch Maritime Trade*, reach'd no farther home than their *Sea-Ports* or *Coasts*, they could have Acquir'd but little of that *Strength* or *Wealth* they now Boast of, by that Article.

That it is the Advantage of their *Navigable Rivers* and *Canals* into the Heart of their *Country* (whereby they have a *Navigation* to almost every *Man's Door*; and every *Man*, may in effect be said to live in a *Sea-Port*) that Entitles 'em to that Extensive *Sea-Trade*, they are justly Reputed to Possess; and denominates 'em (what they really are) *Carriers* for the whole *World*.

That, by this, they are enabled to Bring home the *Silks* and *Dying-Stuffs* of *Turkey* and the *East*; to Carry home



home even our *Lead* from *Ireland*; and, in short, to bring home unwrought Materials from all Parts of the World; and, when they have Wrought 'em up by their own Fire-Sides, to Re-export 'em wherever there is a Demand and a Market for 'em: And, that this universal *Water-Carriage* through all Parts of their Country, is what has fill'd every *Town* with *People*, and fills every *Hand* with *Work*.

That it is the utmost *Improvement* of *CARRIAGE*, and the utmost that *Ireland* is capable of; nay, must be the very *Ground-Work* and *Foundation* to all other Improvements of it.

That it is capable of no considerable *Improvement* without it: Of none at all equal to it.

That *CARRIAGE* in all *Trading Nations*, and more especially in *Ireland*, is the very Life and Soul of *Trade*; nay, is the very *Thing* so call'd; since, not only these vast *Cargo's* which are Transported by larger *Vessels* and longer *Voyages* to Distant *Regions* over the Ocean; nor these lesser Burthens that are Wafted in smaller *Craft* by *home-Coastings* or *Inland Navigation* from one Part of the same Kingdom or Country to another; nor yet your *Land-Carriages* whether by *Carts* or *Waggons* or *Carrs* or *High-Loads* over your own Lands, or from one *Land* or *Town* or *Market* to another; but even your Personal Travelling, whether by *Sea* or by *Land*, on *Foot* or on *Horseback*, by *Coach* or by *Sledd* or by *Litter* or other Vehicle, for a thousand *Leagues* or but to the next *Village*, or even to the other *End* of that you live in (tho' but to fetch a *Loaf* or Piece of *Beef* for your Family) are all reducible to, and must fall under this one Head or Article of *Carriage*; which, therefore, ought by all means to be Cultivated and made commodious for these infinite indispensable Uses that hourly require it; since even, your *Words* and *Thoughts*, (where your *Voice* can't Reach to Convey 'em)

tem) you are oblig'd to Remit, either by *Proxy* or by Paper, by *Message* or by *Writing*; all which are also *Carriage*.

That, to apply this to *Ireland*, It is hitherto our common Cry (I wish it were not our true *State*) that we want *People*, as well to Inhabit and Improve our *Lands*, as to Propagate and Consume our *Product*; And perhaps in the same Breath, that we want *Employment* even for the *Hands* we have.

That these *Propositions* (however seemingly contradictory, and exploded by *Speculative Philosophy*) are yet in this Case of ours but too *Practically* true: For nothing is plainer than that our *Hands* are forc'd to leave us for want of *Work*; and 'tis yet as plain, that we have *Work* enough undone for want of 'em.

Where then lies the *Mystery*? What shall we *Conclude*?

'Tis not but we *Breed* as fast (you'll own) and live to as long *Days*, in as healthful a *Clime*, and as well stor'd with substantial Necessaries for *Life*, as any other of these neighbouring Nations, who get into Possession of the *Numbers* we retrench, and contribute to make up for 'em.

Nor is it, but we have *Work* enough undone upon our *Hands*, many hundred thousands of unreduc'd *Acres*, not to speak of barren *Mountains*, or other intractable Grounds, but Rich *Flats*, and *Fens*, and *Marshes*, very capable of Improvement either for *Tillage* or *Pasture*, and interlac'd with the very best of our *Champaign Acres*, where we may find present *Employment* and future Maintenance for many Thousands of *Families*: — That is, in fewer Words, It is not but we have store of *Work* undone, and may have *Hands* enough of our own to do it with: But It is because we don't find the way to put our *Hands* rightly to our *Work*, that is, to put our *Hands* and our *Work* so together, that may live by, and support each other.

'Tis because the Crop of *Rape, Bear, or other Product* of this Recover'd *Acre*, (which might have defray'd the Expence of it's *Tillage* and left it a good *Acre* for ever after) yet being at a remote Distance from *Market*, is Eaten out on the Road by the *Carriage*, one half being perhaps not sufficient to *Carry* the other; so that we scarce find our Account in the very *Acres*, which GOD and NATURE have left *Fertile* and *Arable* to our Hands; where they are thus Situate, at a remote Distance from *Market*. This, Sir, is what makes the *Play* not worth the *Candles*, and our *Day's-Work* not worth our *Wages*: This is the insupportable Difficulty under which all the *Midland* Parts of the Kingdom have always labour'd; This is the very *Original Evil*; that has always disappointed and Baff'd their *Industry*; and has Begotten and Entayl'd on us, that kind of habitual *Poverty* and *Improvvidence*, which has so long possess'd and dispirited the Generality of our *People*.

Now, to bring home this general *Charge*, yet nearest to our particular *Case*, by Pointing out the particular Instances wherein we are chiefly Losers and Sufferers, by the want of this *Communication* among our selves; It must first be Observ'd,

That, in *Ireland* (as in all, or most, other Countries) the several *Species* of its Product, (especially those of the *Mineral Class*) have their peculiar *Cantons* or *Provinces* assign'd 'em by *Nature*, wherein they severally abound, and whereof they are, respectively, the peculiar *Product* and proper *Commodity*.

I have specify'd *Minerals*, to Distinguish 'em from the *vegetable* Kinds; such as *Bread-Corn, Pulse* and all *Grain*; *Milk* with its other Extracts, as *Butter, Cheese, &c.* then *Flesh, Fish, Fowl, Fruit, Roots*, and comestible *Herbs*; and lastly, *Timber* and *Fruit-Trees, Hemp, Flax, Wool, Rape, Madder, Hops, &c.* Because these, being the Product of *Industry*, may for the most Part, be Labour'd alike in most Places (tho' not with equal Advantages,



vantages, nor in like *Quantities*,) but so far, if possible, as a Competency for their own Consumption: And yet, even these, however Redundant or abounding in some, are equally Scarce (perhaps wholly wanting) in other Places; All *Lands* and *Soils* being not alike capable or productive of all the *Kinds*, even of *Vegetables*.

But more especially the *Minerals*, such as, *Iron*, *Lead*, *Copper*, *Coal*, *Marble*, *Lime* and *Free-Stone*, *Slate*, *Clay* for *Bricks*, *Tyles* and other *Earthen Ware*; To which we may add, *Marle*, *Sand*, *Kelp*, *Sea-Rack*, and others *Manures*: These, being the pure and immediate Product of *Nature*, not of *Industry*, have their fixt and unalterable *Stations* Assign'd 'em by *Nature*; Out of which you can't, by any Art or Industry, Transplant or Propagate, or get 'em to Grow in any other Places (much less, where you please) And must therefore make your Way to come at 'em where they are.

I am now to shew you, that, of all these *Articles* I have Named to you, whether of the *Vegetable* or *Mineral* Kinds, (and of several others which we shall have occasion to Mention hereafter) there is not One, but what you either already have of your own (tho' you make no use of 'em, but have 'em as if you had 'em not;) Or what, by your *Soil* and *Climate* and *Situation*, you are as capable of having, and to as high a Degree of Goodness and Perfection, as most (if not as any) of these other Nations, whence you now Import 'em, at such an immense unknown Expence, as when we come to the Particulars of it, must be Surprizing to Mention; and more Surprizing to think, how or whence you could possibly find it, or have been able to subsist under it.

I ask then, Have you not *Coals* enough of your own by the *Barrow*- and *Nore*- and *Shannon*- and *Bann*-sides, to the South and West and North of you (Three of the Four *Cardinal Points*; and, to the Fourth, you have no *Land*) all within Forty and Fifty (and the farthest

theft not above Sixty) Miles of you? and yet, what are you the nearer or better for 'em? or might not you as well have had 'em in *Jerusalem* or *Japan*? whilst you Issue out of the Kingdom for this one Article, about 70,000 *l.* a Year.

Have you not *Lead* and *Copper-Mines* in many Parts of *Ireland*, that you know? and doubtless, in five times as many, that you know nothing of, nor have ever try'd for 'em?

Have not you had, but Yesterday (til you threw 'em away before you knew you had 'em, or knew the use of 'em) the Noblest *Oak* and *Ash Woods*, the best reputed *Timber* in the known World, which over-spread all the Midland Parts of the Kingdom? And were not you, even then, for want of a Communication to your own *Woods*, Importing your *Timber* from other Countries? And may you not still (your *Soil* having still the same Aptness and Disposition to bear *Trees*) have 'em again, whenever you properly Encourage and Promote the Retrieving and Preserving 'em? that is, when you have open'd a Way to 'em, so as to make the *Timber* and *Bark* of 'em Communicable and Saleable (by which alone they can be worth Retrieving) and when you have secur'd to the *unlanded Planter*, such an Interest and Property in 'em, as may make 'em worth his *Pains* and *Cost* and *Care* in Retrieving and Preserving 'em; by which you'll save to the Nation, what you now Issue out of it for *foreign Timber* and *Bark*, viz. 59,933 *l.* a Year.

Have not you had (til you unhappily Destroy'd and Banish'd your *Woods*) as good *Iron* made in many Parts of *Ireland* (and, to this Day, in those few Places that have husbanded and preserv'd their *Fewel*) as any that ever was made in *Bilboa*, or in any of those other Countries, whence you now Import it at an Expence of 10,766 *l.* a Year?

What Incapacity or Indisposition is there in the *Soil* or *Climate* of *Ireland*, to the bearing of *Hemp*, or *Rape*,

vintages, nor in like *Quantities*;) but so far, if possible, as a Competency for their own Consumption: And yet, even these, however Redundant or abounding in some, are equally Scarce (perhaps wholly wanting) in other Places; All *Lands* and *Soils* being not alike capable or productive of all the *Kinds*, even of *Vegetables*.

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I am now to shew you, that, of all these *Articles* I have Named to you, whether of the *Vegetable* or *Mineral* Kinds, (and of several others which we shall have occasion to Mention hereafter) there is not *One*, but what you either already have of your own (tho' you make no use of 'em, but have 'em as if you had 'em not;) Or what, by your *Soil* and *Climate* and *Situation*, you are as capable of having, and to as high a Degree of Goodness and Perfection, as most (if not as any) of these other Nations, whence you now Import 'em, at such an immense unknown Expence, as when we come to the Particulars of it, must be Surprizing to Mention; and more Surprizing to think, how or whence you could possibly find it, or have been able to subsist under it.

I ask then, Have you not *Coals* enough of your own by the *Barrow-* and *Nore-* and *Shannon-* and *Bann-*sides, to the South and West and North of you (Three of the Four *Cardinal Points*; and, to the Fourth, you have no *Land*) all within Forty and Fifty (and the farthest



theft not above Sixty) Miles of you? and yet, what are you the nearer or better for 'em? or might not you as well have had 'em in *Jerusalem* or *Japan*? whilst you Issue out of the Kingdom for this one Article, about 70,000 *l.* a Year.

Have you not *Lead* and *Copper-Mines* in many Parts of *Ireland*, that you know? and doubtless, in five times as many, that you know nothing of, nor have ever try'd for 'em?

Have not you had, but Yesterday (til you threw 'em away before you knew you had 'em, or knew the use of 'em) the Noblest *Oak* and *Asb Woods*, the best reputed *Timber* in the known World, which over-spread all the Midland Parts of the Kingdom? And were not you, even then, for want of a Communication to your own *Woods*, Importing your *Timber* from other Countries? And may you not still (your *Soil* having still the same Aptness and Disposition to bear *Trees*) have 'em again, whenever you properly Encourage and Promote the Retrieving and Preserving 'em? that is, when you have open'd a Way to 'em, so as to make the *Timber* and *Bark* of 'em Communicable and Saleable (by which alone they can be worth Retrieving) and when you have secur'd to the *unlanded Planter*, such an Interest and Property in 'em, as may make 'em worth his *Pains* and *Cost* and *Care* in Retrieving and Preserving 'em; by which you'll save to the Nation, what you now Issue out of it for *foreign Timber* and *Bark*, viz. 59,933 *l.* a Year.

Have not you had (til you unhappily Destroy'd and Banish'd your *Woods*) as good *Iron* made in many Parts of *Ireland* (and, to this Day, in those few Places that have husbanded and preserv'd their *Fewel*) as any that ever was made in *Bilboa*, or in any of those other Countries, whence you now Import it at an Expence of 10,766 *l.* a Year?

What Incapacity or Indisposition is there in the *Soil* or *Climate* of *Ireland*, to the bearing of *Hemp*, or *Rape*,

or *Hops*? Or rather, don't these vast Tracts of Rich *Flats* and *Fens* and *Marshes*, wherewith the *Midland* Country abounds, seem to be peculiarly adapted and dispos'd to these particular Commodities? And yet, don't you now Issue for only two of these Articles, viz. *Hops* and *Hemp*, 59,718 *l.* a Year?

Is there any Country whatever, that can Boast better *Madder*, than we have seen produc'd, wherever it has been try'd, in *Ireland*; particularly by the late Mr. *Dean L' Abbodie* at *Ballyvaughan*, (Part of Captain *Parker's* Estate in the County of *Tipperary*) a light, stony, shallow Soil, what you may call, at most, but a kind of half-Land? And this was done with very little *Prime-Cost* or *Labour*, and with less Subsequent *Trouble* or *Attendance*; the chief, if not the only Dressing it requir'd (til they came, after a certain Period of Time, to Dig it up for Use) being only what they call'd *Tickling* it at some certain Seasons, an Operation performed by only *Howing* or *Shoving* up the Mould to Cover the Roots, where they grew Proud and appear'd above Ground, For, these Roots, not unlike those of our common *Flaggers*, had Crept and Twin'd and Interwoven and spread themselves near the Surface, as one continued *Scratch* or *Hurdle*, over the whole Ground; by which there must have been, to a great Value of it, upon a very little Land, and with a very little Labour or Expence or Attendance.

I don't know whether there is not a *Law* against Planting this Commodity here; but am apt to think, that such a *Law* (if any such there be) was never Calculated nor Intended, to Cramp or disable us in favour of the *Dutch*, from whom we now Import it, to the Value of 5285 *l.* a Year.

Can there be any such unattainable *Mystery* in the Making of *Ridge-* or *Pan-* or *Flooring-Tyles*? of Earthen *Jars*, or *Crocks*, or *Mugs*, or *Platters*, or other coarse and common *Potter's-Work*? Are we to despair of Improving our *Arklow-Ware*, commonly call'd the *Irish Delf*;

*Delf*, and already brought to be pretty near it in Goodness? Or, are we incapable of arriving, by a little *Time* and *Practice*, at a competent Degree of Perfection in these ordinary and common *Manufactures*, which are generally the Business and Imployment of the most inert and vulgar Understandings in other Countries? Are we to suppose, that in all *Ireland* there are not *Clays* good enough, even for these Ordinary and common *Vessels*? (for, as to the *Porcelane* or *China-Ware*, I am content to give it up) Or, may we not more rationally suppose, that in such an Extent of *Land* of all Kinds, and especially in such vast Tracts of *Flats* and low Grounds, there must be still much better and finer *Clays*, than are yet discover'd, having never been much sought or attended to? And yet, don't you Issue for this mean Article 5552 *l.* a Year?

Are there better *Slates* any where, than what you have in many Parts of *Ireland*? Or can there be any better in the World, than what is call'd the *Killaloe-Slate*, upon the Banks of the Noble *SHANNON*, that washes Eleven Counties from *Kerry-Point* or *Loop-Head* for above Sixty Miles to *Limerick*, and thence by *Ashlowe* and many other Inland Towns almost to *Sligoe*, through the Heart of the Kingdom; (And which, by its many *Feeders* and *Collaterals*, is capable of a Communication through the *Midland* Countries, to almost all the Principal *Sea-Ports* of *Ireland*) A beautiful, blue, fine-grain'd, firm *Slate*, which may be Rais'd of any Size, from the lowest to two or three Foot Square? a *Slate* that will even bear the *Fire*, and burn red-hot in it, like any Plate of *Iron*, and never Crack nor Fly.

Have you not Varieties of *Marble* at *KILKENNY*, in both the *ORMONDS*, and several other known Parts of the Kingdom; and probably in many more that are not yet known, nor have ever been Try'd for it?

And can it be Imagin'd that in such an Extent of Ground as this whole Kingdom, so abounding with *Mountains* productive of most Minerals, there may not



be found *Iron-Mine* to answer our own Uses, of which we now Import such Quantities?

But to what yearly Value you Import *Rape, Lead, Copper, Iron-Mine, Slates, Marble, Free- or Portland-Stone* (all which you have in several Quarters of the Kingdom, could we but come at 'em, or did not the *Land-Carriage* Knock 'em all in the Head) I am not at present exactly Inform'd: but think they can't, all together, amount to so little as 20,000 *l.* a Year.

As to your *WOOLEN* and *LINNEN* and *SILKEN* Manufactures, you have already made a very great (and, all things consider'd) a very surprizing Progress in 'em: Do but look back to *Thirty Years* ago, and see what sorry *Works* of all these *Kinds* were made here at that time; And, when you have Compared 'em with those, which you see now made on the *Cóomb* of *DUBLIN*; then say impartially, whether even the most Topping of our Neighbour-Nations (with all their Advantages of great *Stocks*, an uncontroll'd *Free Trade* and all other possible Encouragements) ever made half that Progress in twice that Time: And, If the poor oppressed *Trades-Man* of *Ireland*, under all their Struggles and Discouragements, their Want of *Stock* or *Trade* or *Countenance*, have in that time, Improv'd these *Manufactures* to that Degree of Perfection we now see 'em arriv'd at; What Reason can there be for Doubting, that they will (in a little more time, and with a little more *Encouragement*) Improve 'em to the highest they are capable of? Or, at least, Equal any other Country that Works 'em of the same *Materials*? And in either Case, save to the Nation the immense Sums they have hitherto Issued for these Articles, amounting to no less than 81,783 *l.* a Year.

In the Article of *Linnen* I have included *Cambricks*, wherein (as Mr. *Prior* Observes) a very considerable unexpected Progress is already made, as it were all at once, and upon the very first *Essay*; and this Article, as the same Ingenious Gentleman Observes, will Include another, viz. *Muslins*, by either superseding the

the Use of 'em (*Cambricks* being better liked, and a far more serviceable *Wear*) or, at least, by leading us into the making of the *Muslins* themselves, should they continue to be Worn among us; For, *Manufactures*, no doubt on't, lead one to another, especially where they are so near Related as *Cambricks* are to *Muslins*: Nay, it has often happen'd, that a *Head* Mechanically turn'd has catch'd up and fasten'd upon some particular *Hint* in One *Art*, and Apply'd it successfully to the Improvement (or perhaps Invention) of another, which, to another *Man*, may seem altogether Foreign to it: And it is well known, that many of those *Artizans*, who have most Excel'd in the *Mechanical Arts*, have frequently done it out of their Own *Province*; that is, in *Trades* which they had never been Bred to.

*Paper* is another Commodity we have not Exerted in, tho' very near Related to these we have last mention'd, but much Plainer and Simpler both in its *Materials* and *Workmanship*, and consequently (whenever we lay ourselves to it) by so much easier to Excel in, than any of 'em: The whole Operation and Mystery of making *European Paper* (for, the *Chinese* and some others make it of other Materials) consisting in no more, than first Sorting and Suting your *Rags* (which are generally *Linnen* or *Hempen* or sometimes *Woolen*) the *Fine* for *Fine*, and the *Course* for *Course Paper*; and, when they are Ground or Pounded down to a kind of *Batter* of a certain due Consistence; then lifting it up (in what Quantity you please according to the thickness you intend) in *Molds* or *Cases* of *Wyer*, which, by leaking out the Liquor it Floated in, Retains this *Batter* in a Sheet ready shap'd and finish'd to your Size, and without any farther Trouble, than just Drying and Packing it up for Use: But without any of the tedious and Expensive Preparations of *Sowing*, *Saving*, *Steeping*, *Dressing*, *Spinning*, *Warping*, *Weaving*, *Bleaching*, &c. which are requisite to those other *Manufactures* we have mention'd before it. And yet we Pay to other Nations for this Commodity, 10,643  $\text{L}$ . a Year.

Now,

Now, Sir, these several *Articles* which we have been here Detailing, let us bring together into one View, by which you may see at once, the total yearly *Amount* of 'em; and they will stand thus, *viz.*

You Issue out of the Kingdom yearly,				l.		
For Coals	—	—	—	70,000		
For Timber	—	—	—	43,933		
For Bark	—	—	—	16,000		
For Iron and Iron-Ware	—	—	—	10,566		
For Hemp	—	—	—	11,483		
For Hops	—	—	—	48,235		
For Madder	—	—	—	05,285		
For Earthen-Ware	—	—	—	05,552		
For Slates - -	}	not exactly known, but Computed at	—	20,000		
For Rape - -						
For Lead - -						
For Copper -						
For Iron-Mine						
For Marble -	}		—			
For Free-, or						
Portland-Stone						
For <i>Woolen</i> Manufactures	—	—	—	24,725		
For Silken Ditto 42,986 l, Whereof (by Im-	}	porting the <i>Silks</i> Raw, and Working 'em	—	14,328		
here) you'll Save by the Manufacture, at						
least <i>One Third</i> ; or	—			05,636		
For <i>Dutch</i> Hollands, which you (very near)	}					
Equal at home	—	—	—	08,406		
For Cambricks	—	—	—	17,137		
For Muslins	—	—	—	10,645		
For Paper	—	—	—			
Total Issued out of the Kingdom yearly, for Foreign Commodities which may be had at home				312,131		
				Here,		



Here, Sir, is a Mortifying Sight of *lost Money* for One poor Nation to lose, (indeed, to squander away) who have neither *Mint* nor Native *Bullion* of their own; but are forc'd, at the hazard of *Life* and *Limb* and *Substance*, to Range over the *Globe*, and fetch it from all Corners of the *Earth*; whilst they *Pinch* and *Starve* and go *half-naked* at home, for these very *Necessaries* which they send abroad to Purchase it.

Do but look back at this *Gulph*, which you have just now leapt over and Escap'd; but which you still stand upon the *Brinks* of; and (unless you take a timely Course to Stop it up) must, again and again leap over it, til your Strength and Spirits fail you, and you are at last, forc'd to Leap *into* it: Look at it once more, and then tell me, what it is that now Remains for you to Wonder at, unless to see that you still Remain *Alive*, that you are yet *above Ground* and *unswallow'd*.

And yet, This is not all; For, Besides these *actual Disbursements* which you make every Year in *Ready Money*, or *Money's-Worth*; for want of this *Communication* at home, by which you might have had these several *Articles*, all (except *Silk* alone) of your own *Growth*; and all (without that, or any other exception) of your own *Manufacture*; We must likewise add those *Negative Losses*, which you sustain; Or, if you will, these *real positive Benefits* which you are hinder'd or depriv'd of, by the same *Cause*: Since, whatever you might have fairly and certainly gain'd, and did not *gain*, that I must say, you have actually *lost*: The vulgar *Saying*, (That, *What a Man never had, he never lost*) being but a wretched Piece of *Home-Sophistry* and *Self-Delusion*, equally false and ridiculous; since it would equally prove, That a *Man*, because he had never possess'd *PARADISE*, could therefore be no *Losser*, tho' he should be for ever Excluded it.

I say then, that you lose yearly, by the Want of your own *Bark*, the Benefit of *Tanning* the Bulk of your own *Leather*, which you are forc'd to Export in *raw* or *green Hides*, and give away the *Manufacture* of 'em to other Countries. --- --- 10,000

You are deprived of the Benefit of a *Million* of *lost Improveable Acres*, which (were their *Product* communicable) would at once defray the Charge of their own *Tillage*; and remain good profitable *Acres* for ever after: And these, at a moderate *Rent* (say five Shillings *per Acre*) would be an Addition to the *Lands* and *Rental* of the Nation of --- --- 250,000

Another *Million*, adjacent to these, and now call'd *profitable Acres*; but, by their remote Distance from *Markets*, render'd useless to any other Purpose but *Pasture*; would by this *Service* be made, at least one *Third*, better than they now are, which at the same Moderate *Rent* of five Shillings *per Acre*, would be another Addition of --- --- 83,000

You pay now for your *Land Carriage*, as has been shewn before, at least 100,000 *l.* *per Ann.* whereof, (were it all Employ'd about *Imported* or *Exportable Commodities*, and all to fall into one or other of these *Navigations*) you may by this Means, undoubtedly save nine *Tenths* of that Expence, *i. e.* 180,000 *l.* a Year; But, in regard a good deal of this *Carriage*, may be Employ'd about your *home Consumption* and *Exchanges*, and be perform'd by minute or *Cross-Carriages* to and fro in the respective *Neighbourhoods*, and not fall into any of these *Navigations*; We'll therefore say, that One Half only of this whole Expence may be sav'd, or - - 100,000

Total

Total of your <i>Losses</i> at home, per <i>Annum</i>	443,000
Total of your actual <i>Disbursements</i> to Foreign Countries, per <i>Annum</i>	312,131
And the whole is, per <i>Annum</i>	755,131

Here, Sir; is a stupendious *Tot* of squander'd Cast-away *Money*; And yet, can you lay your Finger upon one *Over-charge* in this whole *Account*? Is there a single *Article* here, that you don't actually pay this *Money* for (and pay it every Year) to other Nations? Or, can you, on the other Hand, Name One of 'em that you have not, or that you may not have, and have 'em of your own *Growth* too, as well as *Manufacture* at home? The single *Exception*, that I know, is that of Raw or unwrought *Silk*; But, even of this, if you can't produce the *Materials*, you may however, secure the *Workmanship*.

Some Articles, Sir, you must still Expect to Import for *Use*; And some too we'll allow you (for, I doubt you will have 'em) for a little *Wantonness* and *Luxury*. *Wines* and *Spices*, and some few other *Exoticks* you can't well *Want*, tho' their *Quantities* you may very well Retrench: But these few can never hurt you; If you'll but husband, and make the right *Use* of those you have and may have, of your own; you'll never feel (because you'll then better afford) the Importation of the few you *Want* from other Countries.

I am not able, nor will I attempt, to form any Computation of that extended and diffusive Benefit which must accrue to a whole Nation from such a general Improvement and Enlargement both of its *Land* and its *Product*, such an Encrease of its People and Business; such an Opening to its Outward *Trade* and Inland *Commerce*; such an In-lett and Encouragement to *Arts* and *Manufactures*; such a *Prospect* of saving immense



*Sumas at home*, and getting still more from *abroad*: And, in fine, such a general and sure *Foundation* for all the further *Improvements* they may be capable of. These, Sir, are Blessings and Advantages of an exalted and extensive Nature, which insensibly Communicate and Diffuse themselves through every *Limb* and *Branch*, through every *Vein* and *Fibre* of a *Community*, and of which I am utterly unable to make any Estimate: And shall therefore content me to Pronounce 'em (what they surely are) Blessings and Advantages *Inestimable*.

To Conclude then; Would you come at the Use of these simple and common, but daily and indispensable Articles, which *Nature* has provided for you at *home*, but which you over-look and send your Money to other *Countries* for; I mean, first, your Native *Coals*? And save the Nation 70,000 *l.* a Year.

Would you Retrieve your Native *Timber* and *Bark*, and Tann your own *Leather*? And save 69,933 *l.* a Year.

Would you Make, and Use your own *Iron*? And save 10,766 *l.* a Year.

Would you Raise your own *Hemp* and *Rape* and *Hops* and *Madder*, which you are as capable of doing as any other Country? And save 65,000 *l.* a Year.

Would you serve your selves with your Common *Earthen Ware*, of your own *Clay*? And save 5,552 *l.* a Year.

Would you Use your own *Rape*, *Lead*, *Copper*, *Iron-Mine*, *Slates*, *Marble*, *Free-Stone*, *Portland*, &c. And save 20,000 *l.* a Year.

Would you Eat your Own *Bread*, and not Import it from other Nations, whilst your Own *Champaign Acres* lye waste and untill'd for want of being made habitable or accessible? And save a Year.

Would you Encourage and Compleat (the very little Improvement that is now wanting, of) your *Woollens* and *Silken* and *Linnen* Manufactures, so as to fit 'em

at

at least for your own *Use*? And, by these, and by the Article of *Paper* so nearly Related to 'em, save 80,877 *l.* a Year.

Would you Recover and Improve a Million of your best, but lost, *Acres*; and Make another Million, at least *One Third* better than they are; and so add to the *Lands* and *Rental* of the Nation, above 330,000 *l.* a Year, and proportionably Improve and advance all the other *Lands* in the Kingdom?

Would you Add to your *People* 500,000 *Families* profitably Employ'd, and thereby Create and Encourage *Trades* and *Manufactures*; which, in such a *Case*, and on such a *Foundation*, never fail to Create and Beget One another?

Would you, at once, *Strengthen* the Nation by the Accession of such Numbers to your *People*, and Enrich it by so much as the Profit to be made upon their Labour and Industry (over and above their own Consumption and Maintenance) shall amount to?

Would you save the Bulk, (or, say but the One Half) of your *Land-Carriage-Expence*, which would save, at a low Computation, 100,000 *l.* a Year.

Would you, in short, save the Nation 312,131 *l.* a Year, which you actually *Pay*; and Gain it 443,000 *l.* more, which you as visibly *may*; And (a *Penny sav'd* being ever equal to a *Penny Got*) make the Nation better by 758,131 *l.* a Year, certain; besides Contingencies, that is, besides the infinite other Benefits and Improvements that are to be Grafted upon this, and must be the Consequences of it?

Would you, in fine, Purchase this Inheritance of 758,000 *l.* a Year (or, which is still equal, would you Redeem your own *Incumber'd Inheritance*, which Carries this dead *Interest* every Year against you) when you may do it for a Trifle not amounting to three *Months Purchase*? and a *Trifle*, which (were it once put in a *Way*) would Pay it self too.

All this and more, if you would do for *Ireland*; Then (again I Repeat and Insist on it) Make its *Rivers* **NAVIGABLE**.

Lay but this sure *Foundation* Sir; And all the Rest will do themselves; They are but natural *Superstructures* upon it, Natural and inevitable *Consequences* of it, and will and must follow of Course.

I fain would Obviate (could I possibly foresee) any just Exception you could take to this *State* of the Nation's **PRESENT DISTRESS** and **IMPENDING DANGER**; Or any real Difficulty you could Plead against setting Instantly about the *Cure*, by those plain and natural *Remedies* we have been here prescribing for it.

For, should you ask me in general; *What it is, that I would be at? What this Mighty THING is, that I so earnestly Contend for?*-----I Answer, A *Ground-Work* and *Foundation* for the *Improvement* of **IRELAND**.

Then, should you Ask; Of *what VALUE* or **CONSEQUENCE** this *Improvement* will be to **IRELAND**?-----I have told you before, 750,000 *l.* a Year for ever; Worth (were you to pay the full *Value* for it) fifteen Millions Sterling, present Purchase.

But, perhaps, the *Question* with you may be, not so much *What the Thing is really worth?* as, *Whether your Money will Reach it?* And you'll therefore Ask me, *How we shall come at this Immense Purchase?* Or, *What it can be now Had for?*-----And I Answer; You can have all This for about 50,000 *l.*-----A very *Trifle*, amounting not to seven Weeks Purchase of the Whole, and but the 300th Part of its real *Value*. And moreover, That even this *Trifle* you never need to advance or be out of Pocket; Because, Less will put you into Possession of a good Part, that is, of the most Important and Profitable of these *Navigations*; And then the very *Issues* and *Profits* of these will soon Clear off the Purchase of the whole; And you will have a secur'd an  
*Inheritance*



*Inheritance of fifteen Hundred per Cent. for your Principal Money Disburs'd.*

Ay---But, say you; *Tha' this be certainly a glorious Purchase,----And this 50,000 l. but a Trifle to pay for it; Tet, where shall we (who are so very Poor) find even this Trifle?*

And, to me (who am so little Conversant in *Ways and Means*) This is certainly a hard *Question*, which you'll therefore give me Leave to Answer by another, *viz.*

*Where do you find the 300,000 l. a Year, that you now Pay to other Countries for want of it?*

This, 'tis plain, you are forc'd to *Find* every Year; for, how else cou'd you *Lose* it? Since it is Evident that your *Money* (who have none of your own *Growth*) must, like other *Clandestine Goods*, be *Found* before it can be *Lost*.

**S**INCE I had begun this *Letter*, which, through my long *Illness*, I have not been able, nor am now able, to finish to my Mind; and wherein, through my own fullness of a *Subject*, which I had, so long and so nearly, had at my Heart (if that be not permitted, in some measure to Plead my Excuse) I have perhaps been more *Prolix* and *Inculcative* than had been otherwise necessary or pardonable; I see by the *Votes* of your *House*, and see it with the greatest *Pleasure*, that You have prevented and even out-gone my *Hopes*, tho' not my *Wishes*, in the Provision You have made for this *National Scheme*; a Scheme which must be allow'd to be, in Fact the *Ground-Work* and *Foundation*; and, in Effect, the very *Sum* and *Accomplishment* of your *Country's Improvement*.

And, tho' I may now look on my Self, as entirely out of the Case; Having, from a bad State of Health, and a sensible Decay of *Vigour* and *Spirits*, oppress'd partly by *Years*, but more by *Fatigues* and *Diseases*; and, perhaps too, not a little aggravated by *Disgust* and *Resentment* (*Passions*, that are not always in a Man's

own Power to avert or unfeel) but little Prospect left me, of being any further Useful to this good Design, than as I may perhaps contribute to Justify or Explain (as, whilst I have Breath and Senses, I shall Endeavour to do) those more intricate Branches on't, which possibly never may, (or, however, have not yet) so clearly Occurr'd to the Observations of Other Men; and have been therefore question'd or Objected to, as, either wholly Impracticable, or intollerably Hazardous and Expensive. Yet, you'll believe, Sir, That, no other Incident in this Life, cou'd bring me so Solid a Joy as to see, before I leave it, that the Nation has at length taken this Matter duely to heart, and has so vigorously Espous'd and so effectually Provided for it.

There is, however, One main Objection (and it is the only One of Weight, that I know current) against the *Publick's* Imbarking in this Extensive Scheme; but which I have, notwithstanding, thought best to leave unanswer'd at this time; Or, however, to defer its fuller Answer to a more proper Opportunity.---And, for the Reasons following.

1. Because it arises not at all from the Nature of the Thing, nor from any real Difficulties essentially or inevitably attending it; but, singly, from that unexplain'd, if not unaccountable Miscarriage of your former Attempt of this kind, in the River *Liffy*, by the gross and palpable Ignorance, the unexempl'd inimitable Blunders, of certain Intermeddlers and Pretenders to *Art* at home, who in Combination with some Intruding *Mercenaries* from abroad, and Aided, first by the Avarice and Corrupt Practices of some of your own Members; then, by the Sanguine extravagant Projects, the Endless, Boundless, Bottomless, S---Sea-Schemings of some Others; and, lastly, by the unguardedness, Inactivity or Irresolution of the rest; found means, after long Tampering and Beating about the Bush, to Work themselves into the sole Conduct and Management of your Works; and,

and, at length, effectually to Confound and Baffle your Undertaking.

2. Because these very Persons, or some of 'em, who thus Usurp'd the Guardianship and Government of that first and eldest *Branch* of your *Infant-Scheme*, only to Mumble and Over-lay it; are the very Men, who (perhaps on that single Merit; I am sure they have not another to Plead) have now put themselves at the Head of the *Whole*; and most modestly Adopted and Father'd it as their own; as if it were not known, to all the Men living (who know *them* and the *Scheme*) whence it was, that they Plunder'd and Transplanted it; how little they were able to Produce it of their own *Stock* or *Growth*, or even to Nourish or Maintain it now in their own *Soil*, tho' already Begotten, and, in some measure, Nurs'd and Rear'd up to their hand.

3. Because, Unraveling these Mysterious Proceedings in the *Liffy*, must have Expos'd the *Men* who Transacted 'em; and, Exposing the *Men*, might have Exposed and brought a Discredit upon the whole *National Scheme*, which they have now taken upon 'em to Adopt and Espouse; And, so, might have been a Means to Stagger and Disarm its Friends, and furnish a handle to such (if any such there are) as would perhaps lay hold on any handle to Disappoint and Defeat it, even at home; and before it could have an Opportunity of Trying its Fate in another Place.

4. Because this Good *Design*, and its Tendency to the perpetual Good of the Nation, are still the same in their own Natures; let 'em come from what *Hands*, or through what *Hands*, they will: And I can by no means (like the Spurious Mother before *Solomon*) Consent to Dividing or Dismembering an *Infant*, that I had been so many long Years Teeming with, and that has Endear'd itself still more, by smiling ever since in my Face and hanging at my Breast, til unnaturally torn from it by *Man-Stealers*



*Sealers and remorseless Kid-Nabbers*: Rather, let 'em take the whole *Child*; and, if I am grown unfit for the Tuition on't, nor can be allow'd even the Liberty of Chusing Guardians for it; If *These*, and none but *these*, must have the Murthering on't; let 'em e'en take it and Murther it whole; where I don't see it, and where I neither Consent nor Provoke 'em to it, And,

Lastly, Because such an Enquiry into the Conduct and Capacities of these *Men*, will come more Seasonably, and with less Hazard of Injuring or Defeating this Good Design, after it has gone through its other Struggles, and has Past into a Law. I may then Entertain you with a fuller Relation of all these Proceedings; and also with a History of the Transactions of the *Liffy-Company*, from their Beginning to their Dissolution; in hopes these may be Lessons of Caution to future *Societies*; and prevent their Splitting on the like Rocks, in like Cases, hereafter.

Clearing up these *Mysteries*, Sir, is a Debt and a Duty, which I think I owe to the whole *Nation*; to prevent, if I may, its being thus mis-led and Bamboozl'd, Baffl'd and Disappointed, in so Important an Article of its Improvement.

'Tis a Duty and a Regard due, even to *Art*, from every fair Candidate and Professor of it; not to suffer it to be thus Debauch'd and Perverted, or prostituted to the Incroachments of Out-lyers and Invaders, unespous'd and unvindicated.

'Tis a Debt, which I think I particularly owe, both in Duty and Gratitude, to the *Commons of Ireland*; who, whilst we gave 'em, or left 'em, any hopes of our Doing well; were not wanting in their Supports to the *Company*, or Bounties to me; and must have been proportionably Scandaliz'd and Disappointed at our Miscarriage; Tho' you know (and, in this, I appeal to your actual Knowledge of that Fact; and, I believe, most

most of my Readers will easily guess; who you see that I particularly address this *Letter* to) that I never sav'd or reserv'd a Shilling of that *Bounty* to any Use of my own; but, when some of our *Members* began to falter in their Payments, laid it out Frankly on that *Work*, along with other considerable Borrow'd Sums, for which I was left in Debt the last Day; and which I have been, ever since, Struggling to Pay out of my other Industry. And, since I have not been able to give the *Parliament*, as good an account of my Undertaking, as I once hop'd to do, and as they might have justly expected from me; the least, I think, I can now do, is, to give 'em an account why I did not; and by what unhappy Steps and Accidents we came to Miscarry.

I must be allow'd to think too, that I owe something to myself and my Character, which these Gentlemen have so long Worry'd and Tramp'd on; and which has undoubtedly suffer'd, in Proportion as I have been passive and silent; Since there is scarce a Man, who Rides this Day along the Banks of the *Liffy*, and sees those Ruins of our unfinish'd *Works*, which are so many living Monuments of our Miscarriage, but must naturally conclude (unless otherwise particularly Inform'd) that the *Thing* was, in itself, Chymical and impracticable, or the Undertaker unequal to it; And, a Person in Eminent Station, who had always honour'd me with Professions of his Esteem, told me in frank Friendship, that he was afraid my Appearing in the late Project of the *Newrey-Navigation* would do it hurt; Such were the Impressions that had been Industriously Cultivated to my Prejudice, when I little Suspected or Imagin'd it, but thought myself now too well known and Establish'd, to be so easily unhing'd or supplanted.

All these Duties, I think I owe, to my *Country*, my *Project* and my *Self*. And I believe it will be allow'd, when the Story comes to be told, that I owe these *Gentlemen* this Cast of my Office; which I promise 'em, in a reasonable time to Discharge; And, tho' late  
(much

(much too late indeed) to get, as far and as fast, out of their Debt, as the Thing and its Circumstances will permit me.

Mean while, it may be hop'd, that it will be an Instruction to the *Trustees* of your new *Fund*; whatever Sums they may hereafter Contract to Pay for Executing any of these *Services*, and whatever *Toll* they may think reasonable to Allow for Maintaining 'em thereafter (for, in these things, that are yet unknown or uncalculated, it seems inevitable they should be left at Discretion) That they do, however, in all such Cases, and before all other Considerations, take actual good *Sureties* for Performance; and not Engage or Embarrass the Nation in unknown, perhaps endless, Expences; nor hazard the *Publick Money*, to be Squander'd in *Ducks* and *Drakes* (as we have very lately seen it done) upon Childish Unconcerted *Guess-Work*, Chymical ridiculous Experiments of *Artists* or *Enthusiasts*, how assuming or self-sufficient soever; to the Scandal of *Art* it self; and the Discouragement of all Extensive *Works* and National Undertakings.

I am, with my Prayers and Wishes for your Success  
in your Country's Service,

S I R,

Your most Humble Servant,

6 DE 58 PATRIOPHILUS.

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N. B. In the Press, and soon to be Publish'd, The Old  
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